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OHMVR COMMISSION PROGRAM REPORT

2011

California State Parks – Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

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Introduction

California's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Program has as its primary goal and legislative intent the dual central themes that (1) off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation be managed to provide high quality opportunities for OHV recreation, and (2) balanced with protecting the state's natural and cultural resources. These dual commitments are accomplished through the provision of recreational opportunities directly at State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRA) owned and operated by the California State Parks through the OHMVR Division (Division) and by financial and technical assistance to other public and nonprofit entities that provide and manage opportunities as well as enforce the laws associated with motorized recreation.

As required by Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5090.24(h), Duties and Responsibilities of the Commission, this report is submitted by the OHMVR Commission (Commission) to inform the Governor and Legislature of progress and developments in the state's OHMVR Program:

Prepare and submit a program report to the Governor, the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water, and the Committee on Appropriations of each house on or before January 1, 2011, and every three years thereafter. The report shall be adopted by the commission after discussing the contents during two or more public meetings. The report shall address the status of the program and off-highway motor vehicle recreation, including all of the following:

1. *The results of the strategic planning process completed pursuant to subdivision (1) of Section 5090.32.*
2. *The condition of natural and cultural resources of areas and trails receiving state off-highway motor vehicle funds and the resolution of conflicts of use in those areas and trails.*
3. *The status and accomplishments of funds appropriated for restoration pursuant to paragraph (s) of subdivision (b) of Section 5090.50.*
4. *A summary of resource monitoring data compiled and restoration work completed.*
5. *Actions taken by the division and department since the last program report to discourage and decrease trespass of off-highway motor vehicles on private property.*
6. *Other relevant program-related environmental issues that have arisen since the last program report.*

OHMVR Program Overview

When it established the OHMVR Program, the Legislature recognized that the growing popularity of off-highway motor vehicles requires effectively managed areas and adequate facilities to accommodate the demand for recreational activity of off-highway motor vehicles along with conservation and enforcement to achieve ecologically balanced recreation that addresses potential deleterious impacts on the environment, wildlife habitats, native wildlife, and native flora.

In 1971, through enactment of the Chappie-Z'berg Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Law (the Law), the Legislature addressed the growing use of motorized vehicles off-highway by adopting requirements for the registration and operation of motor vehicles used off-highway. In addition, the Law provided funding for administration of the program along with providing facilities for off-highway motor vehicle recreation. (California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 38000, et seq.)

The Law was founded on the principle that managed OHV use is essential for conserving and protecting the environment. The Law required maintenance and oversight to allow for sustainable OHV use consistent with good environmental stewardship.

In 1982, these principles were expanded upon through enactment of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Act, which has been amended numerous times and is now referred to as the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Act of 2003 (OHMVR Act) (PRC Section 5090.01, et seq.).

The OHMVR Act intends that existing OHV areas be expanded, added to, and managed to sustain areas for long-term motor vehicle recreation and that the OHMVR Program support motorized off-highway access to non-motorized recreation opportunities. The Act requires the OHMVR Program be given equal priority with other programs administered in the State Park System.

With the OHMVR Act, the Legislature created a separate division within California State Parks, the OHMVR Division, which has the exclusive authority for administering the OHMVR Program. The Division is charged with all aspects of managing the OHMVR Program.

Most recently, in 2007, Senate Bill 742 (SB 742) was introduced by Senator Steinberg and co-authored by Assembly Member Wolk. This legislation made a number of significant changes to clarify and strengthen the OHMVR Program related to funding, responsibilities of the Commission and Division, and the allocation of grant funds. It also extended the OHMVR Program sunset to January 1, 2018, the longest sunset in the history of the OHMVR Program. The bill received strong bipartisan support from the Assembly and the Senate as it passed through the Legislature by a vote of 114-5.

The OHMVR Commission

The OHMVR Act also established the OHMVR Commission (PRC Section 5090.15, et seg.) to provide a public body of appointed members having expertise in various areas related to off-highway recreation and environmental protection. The Commission is dedicated to reviewing and commenting on Program implementation, encouraging public input on issues and concerns affecting the OHMVR Program, considering and approving general plans for SVRAs, and providing advice to the Division on the OHMVR Program.

The Commission is a nine member body consisting of five members appointed by the Governor, two by the Senate Committee on Rules, and two appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

Per PRC Section 5090.24 the Commission has the following duties and responsibilities:

- Be fully informed regarding all governmental activities affecting the OHMVR Program.
- Meet at least four times per year at various locations throughout the state to receive comments on the implementation of the OHMVR Program. Establish an annual calendar of proposed meetings at the beginning of each calendar year. The meetings shall include a public meeting, before the beginning of each Grants Program cycle, to collect public input concerning the OHMVR Program, recommendations for program improvements, and specific project needs for the system.
- Hold a public hearing to receive public comment regarding any proposed substantial acquisition or development project at a location in close geographic proximity to the project, unless a hearing consistent with federal law or regulation has already been held regarding the project.
- Consider, upon the request of any owner or tenant, whose property is in the vicinity of any land in the system, any alleged adverse impacts occurring on that person's property from the operation of OHVs and recommend to the Division suitable measures for the prevention of any adverse impact determined by the Commission to be occurring, and suitable measures for the restoration of adversely impacted property.
- Review and comment annually to the director on the proposed budget of expenditures from the fund.

- Review all plans for new and expanded local and regional vehicle recreation areas that have applied for grant funds.
- Review and comment on the strategic plan developed by the Division pursuant to Section 5090.32.
- Prepare and submit a program report to the Governor, the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water, and the Committee on Appropriations of each house on or before January 1, 2011, and every three years thereafter. The report shall be adopted by the Commission after discussing the contents.
- Additionally, the Commission approves general plans and amendments to general plans for the SVRAs pursuant to PRC Section 5002.2.

The OHMVR Division

The Division operates eight SVRAs located throughout California and supports local, state and federal OHV recreation areas through financial and technical assistance and professional guidance.

Per PRC Section 5090.32 the Division has the following duties and responsibilities:

- Planning, acquisition, development, conservation, and restoration of lands in SVRAs.
- Direct management, maintenance, administration, and operation of lands in the SVRAs.
- Provide for law enforcement and appropriate public safety activities.
- Implement all aspects of the program.
- Ensure program compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Division 13 commencing with Section 2100) in SVRAs.
- Provide staff assistance to the commission.
- Prepare and implement plans for lands in, or proposed to be included in, SVRAs, including new SVRAs. However, a plan shall not be prepared in any instance specified in subdivision (2) of Section 5002.2.
- Conduct, or cause to be conducted, surveys, and prepare, or cause to be prepared, studies that are necessary or desirable for implementing the program.
- Recruit and utilize volunteers to further the objectives of the program.
- Prepare and coordinate safety and education programs.
- Provide for the enforcement of Division 16.5 (commencing with Section 38000) of the Vehicle Code and other laws regulating the use or equipment of off-highway motor vehicles in all

areas acquired, maintained, or operated by funds from the fund; however, the Department of the California Highway Patrol shall have the responsibility for enforcement on highways.

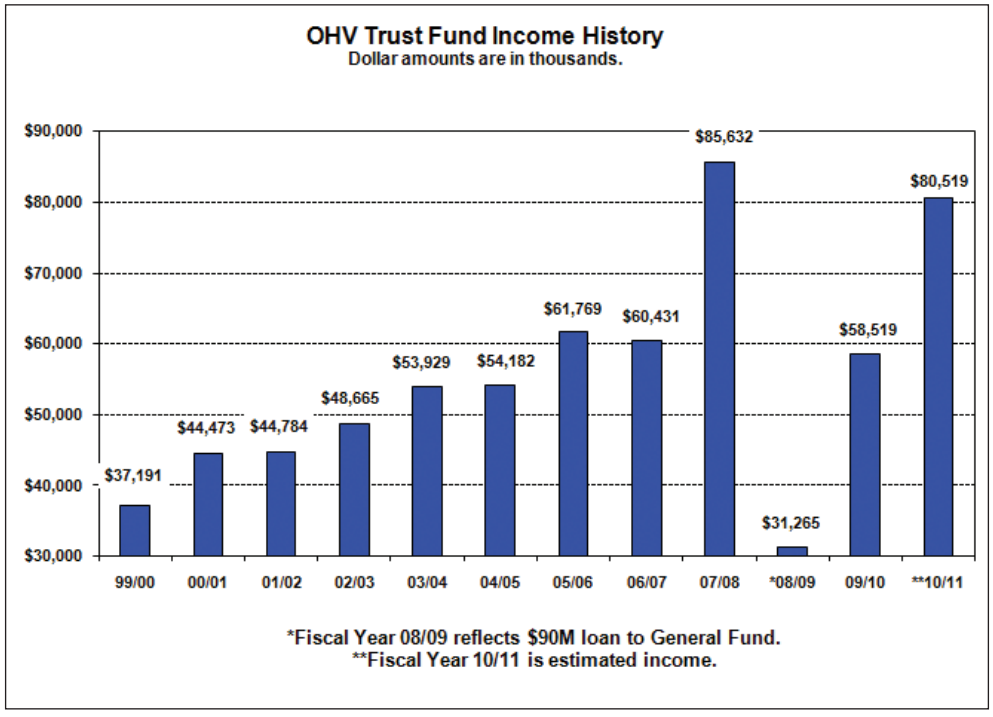
- Complete by January 1, 2009, a strategic planning process that will identify future off-highway motor vehicle recreation needs, including, but not limited to, potential off-highway motor vehicle parks in urban areas to properly direct vehicle operators away from illegal or environmentally sensitive areas. This strategic planning process shall take into consideration, at a minimum, environmental constraints, infrastructure requirements, demographics limitations, and local, state, and federal land use planning processes. The strategic plan shall be reviewed by the commission and updated periodically.

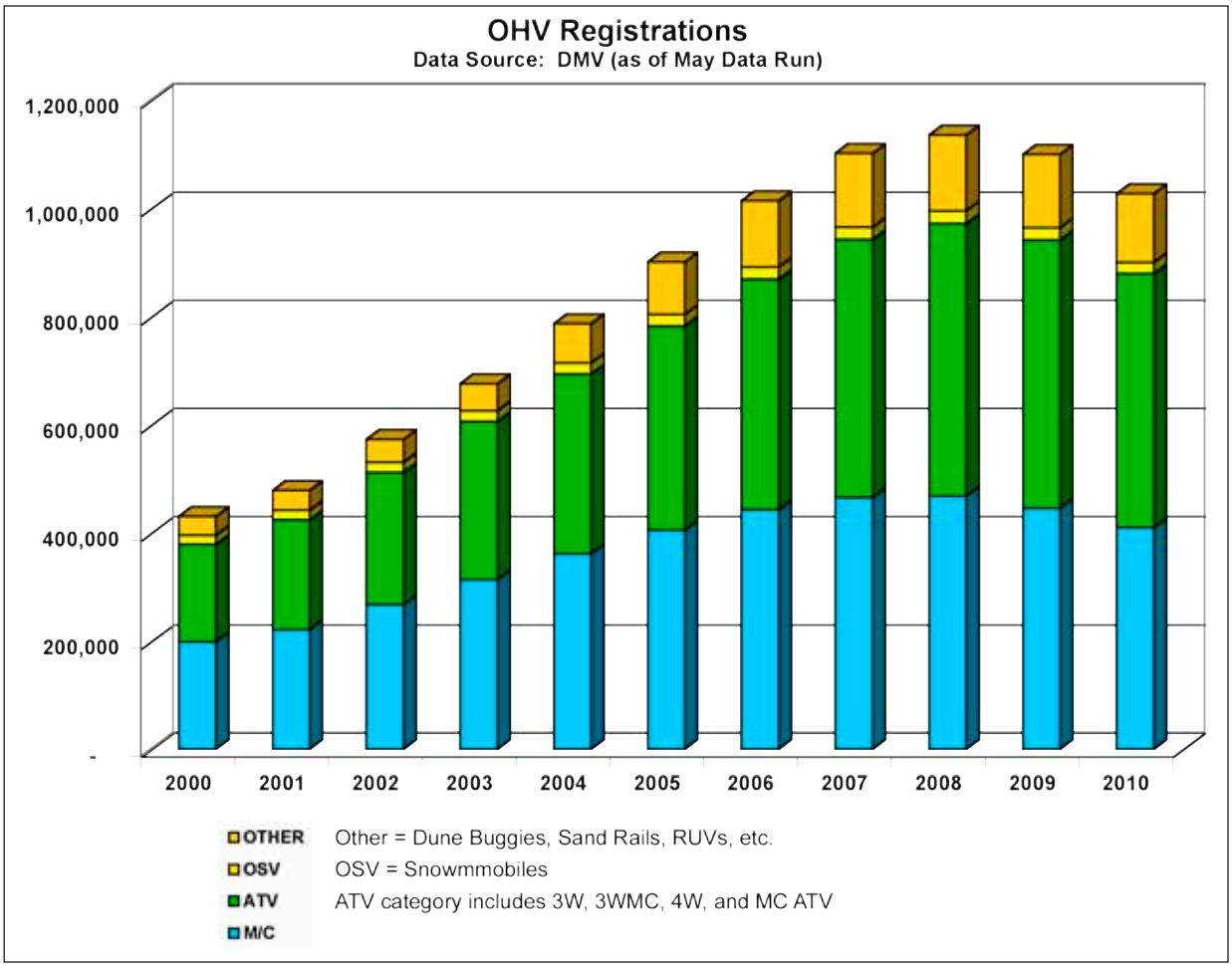
Program Funding

The OHMVR Program receives no support from the state's General Fund. All funding is directly generated by the recreational community the OHMVR Program serves. Funding comes primarily from three sources:

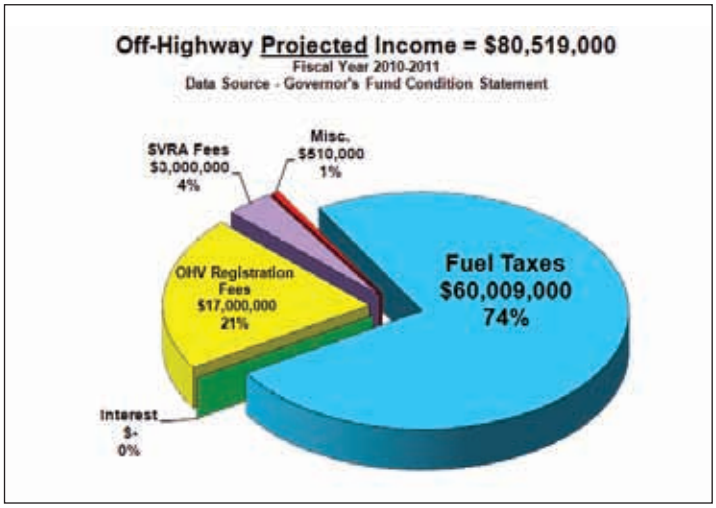
- Fuel taxes from gasoline consumed in off-highway recreation on public lands
- OHV registration fees
- Entrance fees generated at the SVRAs

A history of income to the OHV Trust Fund over the past 10 years is provided in the chart below:



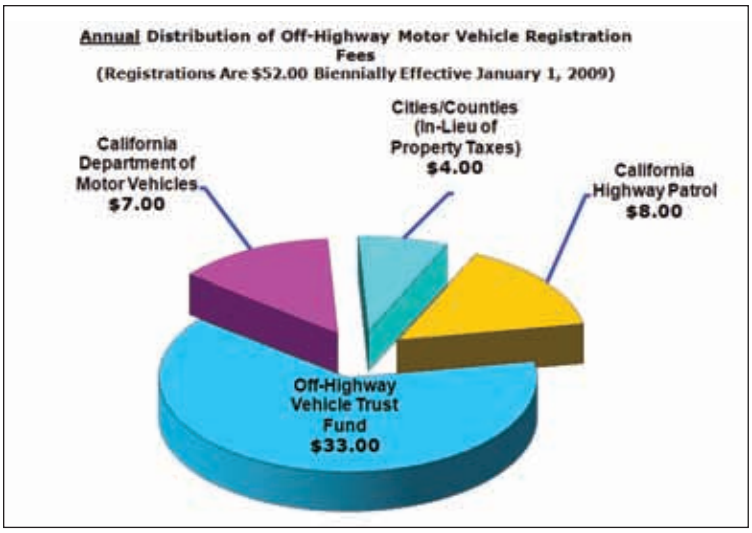

OHV Registrations
Data Source: DMV (as of May Data Run)
1,200,000
1,000,000
800,000
600,000
400,000
200,000
-
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
OTHER
OSV
ATV
M/C
Other = Dune Buggies, Sand Rails, RUVs, etc.
OSV = Snowmmobiles
ATV category includes 3W, 3WMC, 4W, and MC ATV

Note: A significant increase can be seen beginning in 07/08. SB 742, enacted in 2008, increased OHV registration fees from $25 to $52, payable every two years. The portion of these registration fees directed to the OHV Trust Fund therefore rose from $8 of the former $25 registration payment, to $33 for every $52 registration payment.



Acquisitions and Capitol Improvements

Acquisitions and capital improvement projects are funded from any excess revenue to the OHV Trust Fund over the amount budgeted for routine program operating expenses. For several years funds available for acquisition and capital improvement projects accumulated and remained unallocated while the Division and the Commission worked on the OHMVR Strategic Plan to develop a shared vision for the OHMVR Program and establish priorities for the goals and objectives for the future of the program, including acquisition priorities for additional facilities and areas.



Despite adoption of the Strategic Plan these funds are not currently available to meet program acquisition and capitol outlay objectives due to recent budget actions which transferred OHV Trust Funds to the state's General Fund.

In January 2009, $90 million from the OHV Trust Fund was transferred to the General Fund. February 2009 an additional $22 million was transferred to the General Fund. The current budget action provides that these transfers are a "loan" and "repayment shall be made so as to ensure that the programs supported by the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund are not adversely affected by the loan, but no later than June 30, 2010."

State Vehicular Recreation Areas

Overview of State Vehicular Recreation Areas

Carnegie SVRA

Carnegie SVRA is located in the hills of southern Alameda and San Joaquin counties between the cities of Livermore and Tracy. The landscape at the park is characterized by dry rocky washes, rolling hills, and steep, rugged canyons rising abruptly out of the floodplain. The SVRA provides more than 1,500 acres of off-highway vehicle recreation opportunities. The park is a distinctive setting for OHV recreation of all skill levels and offers beautiful scenic vistas for trail riding. The SVRA is especially suited for motorcycle use because of its steep hills and narrow trails. The canyons offer a variety of terrain for trail riding, including some extremely challenging hill climbs. Park elevations range from 650 to 1,750 feet above sea level and the weather is generally a semi-arid Mediterranean type which includes wet, mild winters and long, dry summers.

Location: San Joaquin and Alameda Counties

Total Park Acreage: 1,500

Year the Park became an SVRA: 1980

Recreational Opportunities

OHV Recreation

While Carnegie SVRA is known for its extreme hill climbs and single track trails that traverse the hills, there is also great opportunity for 4x4s, ATVs, and RUVs including trails, open riding, a 4x4 play area and obstacle course, and motorcycle and ATV tracks. The valley floor offers a variety of tracks including a motocross track for dirt bikes only, an ATV and dirt bike track, and a beginner track designated for vehicles with small engines up to 70cc and an intermediate track designated for vehicles with engines up to 110cc. The riparian area through the valley floor is protected with designated crossings to access trails in the hills.

Education Programs

Carnegie SVRA offers the Junior Ranger program and hosts the Off-Highway PAL programs. In addition, staff provides educational opportunities through community and school outreach programs. Carnegie staff participate in local community and historical special events held in Tracy

and Livermore. During these events, OHV safety, regulations, and recreation opportunities are discussed. The SVRA also hosts a variety of OHV special events at which park visitors are educated on the importance of staying on trails, out of creeks and streams, away from wildlife, and out of closed areas.

Special Events

In the spring of each year, Carnegie hosts the National Championship Hillclimbs. The State Championship Hillclimbs take place in the fall. Throughout the year manufacturers test their product lines in the park, provide riding instruction for their staff, and utilizing the rugged terrain to test for vehicle safety.

Facilities

Day Use and Camping

Day use staging areas are located throughout the park and offer shade ramadas, picnic tables, and restrooms. Day use hours vary depending upon the time of year; however, the park is closed to OHV recreation at night. Twenty-three designated campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Sites are equipped with a picnic table, shade ramada, and fire ring. Potable water, flush toilets, and showers are provided near the campsites.

Park History

In 1855 railroad surveyors discovered coal in Corral Hollow which led to the building of California's first commercial coal mine and the town of Tesla. High quality clay was later found in the area, which led to the construction of the Carnegie Brick and Pottery Company in 1902. Owner John Treadwell named his newest enterprise after a man he admired, philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. By 1900, Carnegie was a vibrant town of 2,000 citizens and by 1910 as many as 110,000 bricks a day were being shipped all over California stamped with the name "Carnegie." A small town of about 350 sprung up that included a hotel, two bunkhouses, a bakery, saloon, slaughterhouse, school, and 17 homes. In 1907, the bank that held the mortgage on the brick plant failed despite high demand for brick. However, by late 1916, the company faced financial ruin and was sold.

The new owners, wishing to return the area to ranch land, destroyed the town's remaining buildings and sold off the factory's equipment. Remnants of

Carnegie's past, including the old town's foundations, railroad routes, and mine shafts can still be seen throughout the park today. In addition, the Carnegie Brick and Pottery Company's legacy continues in stately buildings such as the Oakland Hotel, the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum, and the Carnegie Libraries in Livermore and Lodi. The land was occupied by private ranches, predominantly for cattle grazing.

By the early 1940s motorcyclists had discovered the durable clay soils of Corral Hollow to be good for OHV recreation. In 1970, Carnegie was purchased for a private motorcycle park, known as the Carnegie Cycle Park. Improvements were made to the park, but due to increasing insurance costs and operating expenses, the property was sold to the state for $1.2 million in 1979.

Park Resources

Carnegie SVRA is in the California Floristic Province. The province includes plant life especially adapted to warm Mediterranean climates of wet, mild winters and long, dry summers. While mostly oak studded grasslands, the park is home to an impressive display of spring wildflowers and some special California native plants. The park is home to the federally-listed threatened California red-legged frog and the California tiger salamander, as well as a wide range of bird species and mammals.

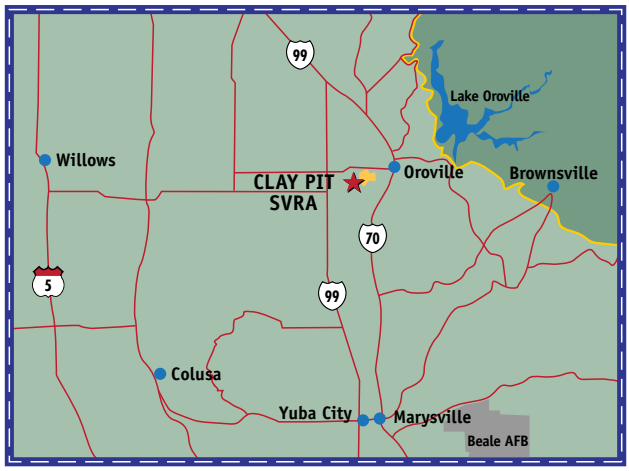
Protecting resources today makes it possible to provide quality OHV recreation in the future. Carnegie continues this history of resource protection by utilizing a comprehensive trails management program which combines the expertise of environmental scientists, maintenance supervisors, equipment operators, planners, and managers. This multi-disciplinary team approach ensures monitoring of wildlife habitat, improved trail design and layout, successful revegetation and rehabilitation projects, maintenance of roads and trails, and the protection of stream habitats.

Carnegie is currently the only SVRA with an active California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program. In this program, trained volunteers work with professional archaeologists to protect the archaeological and historical resources by regularly visiting sites and recording changes.

The condition and status of the natural and cultural resources, including a summary of resource monitoring data and restoration work, is discussed under those specifically titled sections within this report. Please refer to those sections for more detailed information.

Clay Pit SVRA

Clay Pit SVRA is located approximately two miles west of the town of Oroville and approximately 30 miles north of Yuba City, in Butte County. Present-day Clay Pit SVRA was excavated to construct Oroville Dam in 1964. Clay was mined from the area to construct the core of the dam. The result of this work left a depression in the ground—a large, shallow, bowl-shaped pit and an undulating landscape ringed with low hills. Clay Pit SVRA is a 220-acre fenced open riding area that offers beginner riding terrain for motorcycle, ATV, four-wheel drive, and dune buggy enthusiasts.



Location: Butte County

Total Park Acreage: 229

Year the Park became an SVRA: 1981

The elevation of Clay Pit SVRA varies from 50 to 150 feet above sea level. The climate is variable—generally warm during the summer with temperatures in the 70s, and cold during the winter with temperatures averaging in the 40s.

Clay Pit General Plan

The OHMVR Division is in the process of developing a General Plan for the Clay Pit SVRA. The General Plan will serve as a guidebook for future development and enhancements to the Clay Pit SVRA. It will establish a long-term vision and management direction for the park, identify potential recreation and facility improvements, resource stewardship, and appropriate public use. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared concurrent with the General Plan. Public involvement and input is essential in the formulation of the park's programs and management priorities. The OHMVR Division has initiated a stakeholder-driven process whereby issues and ideas voiced by community members will help guide project research, alternatives development and analysis, and recommendations.

Recreational Opportunities

OHV Recreation

Clay Pit SVRA offers primarily open riding and informal trails for those riding motorcycles,

ATVs, and dune buggies. The park provides ideal beginner OHV terrain, and is a nice place for families to gather, watch people recreate, and picnic under the cottonwood trees.

Educational Programs

The SVRA provides interpretative panels for visitor education purposes. Additional education programs are currently being developed and will comprise a variety of education and safety programs, including activities that focus on learning about, and protecting the park's resources, safe OHV operations, and possible Junior Ranger activities.

Facilities

Day Use and Camping

Clay Pit SVRA is for day use only. There is no camping at this facility. It is open from 8:00 am until sunset, seven days a week. Facilities available at the park include shade ramadas, picnic tables, and a vault toilet.

Park History

The history of Clay Pit is tied to the state-wide effort to create reservoirs during the State Water Project. After the dam was completed, site ownership was retained by the California Department of Water Resources and Department of Fish and Game. Although still somewhat unclear, further study of Clay Pit has the potential to yield information about early California gold dredging activities and the State Water Project. In 1981, the property was transferred to California State Parks for the purpose of establishing, operating, and maintaining an OHV area and providing for associated recreation on the property. The Northern Buttes District of State Parks managed the area until July 1, 2009, when it was then transferred to the OHMVR Division. Today, it is operated by the Twin Cities District.

Park Resources

Due to the heavy disturbance of the land as a result of the excavation, habitat diversity is limited at Clay Pit. However, the park is home to a variety of wildlife, including black-tailed jack rabbits, western fence lizards, deer, and coyotes. The park is also home to a variety of bird species, including golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, killdeer, prairie falcons, and northern flickers. Vegetation within the park consists predominantly of vernal pools, grassland habitats, cottonwoods, cattail vegetation, and arroyo willow. Vegetation within the park consists of low growing grasses and wetland

vegetation. Fremont cottonwoods are also found scattered throughout the park, offering areas of shade for park visitors in the summer months.

The excavation of Clay Pit for the construction of the Lake Oroville Dam significantly altered the natural surface. Any prehistoric archaeological sites that may have existed in the interior of Clay Pit SVRA prior to the 1964 excavation, or possibility for relocation of those sites, have since been destroyed. However, the park does contain dredge tailings dating to the gold rush era; field surveys conducted by OHMVR archaeologists identified one previously undocumented historic-era site.

The condition and status of the natural and cultural resources in the SVRA, including a summary of resource monitoring data and restoration work, is discussed under those specifically titled sections within this report. Please refer to those sections for more detailed information.

Heber Dunes SVRA

Heber Dunes SVRA is located in the Southern Imperial Valley, a rich and intensively farmed agricultural area in the California desert. The park is situated approximately 10 miles southeast of the city of El Centro and two miles north of the Mexican border in Imperial County. The SVRA, an intimate family-oriented park, became an SVRA in 2007. Although Heber Dunes SVRA is a relatively small park, encompassing approximately 380 acres, it fulfills an important local recreational need, is close to home, and is a setting for many families to gather, picnic, and socialize.

Location: Imperial County

Total Park Acreage: 380

Year the Park became an SVRA: 2007

Elevations at Heber Dunes SVRA are typical of low desert environments. The park is approximately 11 feet above sea level, has intensely hot summers, with several months of temperatures over 100 degrees, often exceeding 115 degrees. Night time lows for most of the summer are in the high 80s. Winters are mild, and frosts uncommon.

Heber Dunes General Plan

The OHMVR Division is in the process of preparing a General Plan and associated EIR for Heber Dunes SVRA. The General Plan will establish the park's primary purpose and management

direction for its future. Initial General Plan research and analysis efforts included examination of existing conditions, public outreach, and identification of issues and opportunities. Through a public process, goals and guidelines are being developed to guide management direction for long-term use of the park.

Recreational Opportunities

OHV Recreation

Heber Dunes SVRA is a small park frequented by families and friends who enjoy picnicking, barbecuing, and recreating or watching people recreate on OHVs. The sand dunes and dense groves of tamarisk trees that prevail throughout the park offer a unique desert recreation experience, providing winding trails and paths, and interesting terrain for the OHV enthusiast. The trees provide shade—an oasis in the desert environment. The SVRA is a popular destination for the local community and those who enjoy recreating on ATVs. However, dune buggy, utility vehicle, and motorcycle enthusiasts visit the park as well.

Training Track

Heber Dunes SVRA has a youth training ATV / dirt bike track designated for riders 12 years old and under, riding 70cc or less. This is a great place for kids to ride under the watchful eye and guidance of their parents.

Educational Programs

The SVRA offers ATV safety classes and education materials in both English and Spanish. Additional education and outreach programs are being developed and will include activities that focus on safe OHV operation, Junior Ranger activities, and protecting park resources.

Facilities

Day Use and Camping

Heber Dunes SVRA is for day use only. Facilities available at the park include shade ramadas, barbecue pits, picnic tables, and restrooms. There are no camping facilities at the park.

Park History

Heber Dunes SVRA has a colorful but provincial history. Native Americans, with an intimate knowledge of the area's natural resources, lived and traveled throughout the region for centuries. Early Spanish explorers trekked across the land leading scouting parties in search of an overland route to Alta California.

Eventually, industrious farmers developed much of the Imperial Valley and the land surrounding Heber Dunes SVRA for agricultural purposes. However, the abundant trees, heavy clay, sand dunes, and salt accumulations in the soils, made the conversion of Heber Dunes SVRA to farmland a daunting task unlikely to result in economic gain. The very reasons this area is was not well suited for farming made it an ideal location for recreation. Heber Dunes SVRA remains an isolated parcel of undeveloped land surrounded by agriculture and urbanization to the west. For over 30 years, Imperial County administered Heber Dunes SVRA until California State Parks entered into a lease agreement to operate the park in 2000. The park was officially deeded over in 2007.

Park Resources

Surrounded by farms, highways, and canals, Heber Dunes SVRA is a small oasis in the Imperial Valley. The park is visited by migrating birds, especially north-bound birds in the spring, and is a place for doves to nest and seek refuge. Though not indigenous to the area, the tamarisk trees thrive in the salty, sandy soil. A diversity of wildlife populations find shelter amongst the trees, a plentiful food source in the adjacent hay and grain fields, and plenty of water in the canals which surround the park.

The stark environment of Heber Dunes, formerly dominated with creosote brush, shifting sands and occasional episodic flooding may have made the area unattractive to long-term settlement. The recent cultural resources inventory completed by the park provides a good understanding of the history and resources of the area.

The condition and status of the natural and cultural resources in the SVRA, including a summary of resource monitoring data and restoration work, is discussed under those specifically titled sections within this report. Please refer to those sections for more detailed information.

Hollister Hills SVRA

Hollister Hills SVRA is tucked into the Gabilan Mountains in San Benito County, approximately eight miles south of the city of Hollister and about an hour's drive south of San Jose. Oak-studded hillsides form the backdrop for the park, which also features picturesque rolling hills and springtime wildflower displays. This island of open space is surrounded by agricultural lands, homes and wineries. The park covers more than 7,000 acres of varied terrain divided between the Upper Ranch and Lower Ranch.

Location: San Benito County

Total Park Acreage: 7,000

Year the Park became an SVRA: 1975

In addition to the rich cultural history, visitors are drawn to the park's extraordinary landscape, ranging from deep oak forests, lush canyons, native grasslands, and the many miles of diverse OHV trail opportunities. Hollister Hills SVRA is a family-oriented park that provides a wide selection of off-highway vehicle adventures for responsible campers, picnickers, and OHV and other outdoor enthusiasts. Elevations at the park range from 660 feet to 2,425 feet. The average monthly temperature varies from the low-to-mid 90s in summer, to the low-to-upper 50s in winter.

Recreational Opportunities

OHV Recreation

Hollister Hills SVRA offers diverse recreational opportunities for the entire family. The SVRA is divided into the Upper Ranch and the Lower Ranch, where specifically dedicated forms of OHV recreation are allowed.

The Upper Ranch: The 800+ acre Upper Ranch includes a Grand Prix Track, obstacle course, and over 35 miles of trails that offers exciting and challenging off-highway fun for 4x4 vehicles.

The Lower Ranch: This 3,300-acre area is set aside for ATV and dirt bike use only. OHV recreation is available on more than 128 miles of trails and several hill climbs, as well as a variety of tracks, open riding areas, and an adventure course. Riding areas are also available for children, limited to 90cc or smaller motorcycles and ATVs.

Hollister Hills recently opened two new areas of the park: the Renz and the Hudner properties. The Renz is a 1,600-acre portion of the Lower Ranch that provides a unique riding experience. The Hudner is located across Cienega Road from the Lower Ranch and consists of approximately 1,500 acres of rolling hills with pristine views of both the Cienega Valley and the town of Hollister. The Renz and Hudner properties represent an improved way of approaching trail design for OHV recreation, focusing on narrow trails, frequent grade changes, rolling trail contours, and trails designed to keep the impacts of sound away from nearby neighbors. The properties highlight how improved trail design can protect the natural and cultural resources and provide an interesting and enjoyable OHV experience for visitors.

Nature Area

The Nature Area is a non-motorized area of the park available for hiking and mountain biking. The 300+ acre area offers a network of trails for exploration and nature viewing.

Education Programs

The park offers its visitors an assortment of education programs, including OHV safety training, nature programs, OHV maintenance clinics, guided and self-guided tours, campfire programs, living history programs, school field trips and presentations, and outreach events. The park sponsors Junior Ranger OHV programs and hosts the Off-Highway PAL program. These programs provide a fun and interesting way for kids to learn about the park, practice safe and responsible OHV use, and gain a greater understanding about the natural and cultural resources in the park.

Special Events

Areas within the park are available for a variety of special events. Nationally televised Hare Scrambles and 4-wheel drive events occur annually within the park. Additional events include

charity fundraisers, OHV events geared for kids, and a unique national vintage motorcycle show and race that draws people from around the country.

Facilities

Day Use and Camping

Hollister Hills SVRA is open year round for OHV recreational use. There are a variety of campgrounds differing in size, from smaller sites to areas set aside for large groups. The campsite amenities include showers, flush toilets, picnic tables, and fire rings.

Park History

The lands of Hollister Hills were once inhabited by the Ohlone Indians. The specific tribe that lived in the area where the park is now located was called the "Paxsin" or "Pagsin." The Ohlone people are a Native American people of the central California coast. Until the arrival of Spanish soldiers and missionaries to the area in the late 1700s, the Ohlone Indians survived by hunting, fishing, and gathering.

Hollister Hills SVRA as a recreational park originated with Howard Harris. The SVRA is the site of a former family ranch owned by Mr. Harris that for many years produced a variety of agricultural products. In addition, Mr. Harris used the land for various diverse activities including mining, geology classes, farming, ranching, hunting, and finally as an OHV area. The hills of Hollister first welcomed OHVs to the ranch in 1947 when Bird Creek Hunting Club was organized. Jeeps, motorcycles, and "tote-goats" were used for transportation around the ranch as well as to control trespassing. Mr. Harris built the majority of the park's trails while operating the ranch as a motorcycle park until October 1, 1975. Mr. Harris sold the land to the state in 1975, and it became Hollister Hills SVRA.

Park Resources

Staff at Hollister Hills SVRA work diligently to provide visitors with quality OHV recreational opportunities while carefully balancing the impacts of OHV use with the protection of the park's natural and cultural resources.

The SVRA's landscape of oak woodlands, chaparral, and native and non-native grassland provides habitat for the park's numerous species and habitats including the federally-listed threatened California red-legged frog, bobcat, several different raptors, mountain lions, flycatchers, and the California thrasher. Riparian forest habitat at the park occurs along Bird Creek and Azalea Canyon, and are important wildlife resources used by a variety of wildlife species.

Trails are designed for long-term sustainability in areas that have been strategically chosen for their durability and lack of impact to the surrounding resources. With adaptive resource management and the use of best management practices, motorized recreation and sensitive species can coexist. Vegetation management, habitat enhancement, and restoration are programs used throughout the park to sustain and protect the species most at risk.

The condition and status of the natural and cultural resources in the SVRA, including a summary of resource monitoring data and restoration work, is discussed under those specifically titled sections within this report. Please refer to those sections for more detailed information.

Hungry Valley SVRA

Hungry Valley SVRA is located directly south of the town of Gorman near Tejon Pass, paralleling Interstate 5. It encompasses parts of Los Angeles, Ventura, and Kern Counties. The SVRA provides recreation and OHV opportunities serving the needs of the Central Valley and the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area. The park offers approximately 19,000 acres and more than 130 miles of scenic trails for motorized use.

Location: Kern, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties

Total Park Acreage: 17,000

Year the Park became an SVRA: 1980

Hungry Valley is a distinctive area, where diverse geological and biogeographical elements converge. The topography in the SVRA ranges from flat, broad valleys and gentle rolling landscapes, to sharp hills and steep-sided canyons that set off the more rugged hills and mountains within the park. This varied terrain provides unique opportunities for OHV enthusiasts, not to mention beautiful panoramic views of vast open spaces and vistas. Elevations at the SVRA range from 3,000 feet to nearly 6,000 feet. Hungry Valley is a semi-arid place. Summers are often hot, with temperatures ranging from the

mid-90'slow 100s. In contract, the winters can be quite cold; snow is not uncommon. Spring provides some of the most spectacular wildflowers displays in the California State Park system.

Recreational Opportunities

OHV Recreation

All levels of OHV operator skills can enjoy the wide variety of terrain and trails available at the SVRA and the adjoining Los Padres National Forest. Motorized recreational opportunities includes open areas, dedicated trails, tracks, play areas, special use areas, and a four-wheel drive obstacle area. In addition to the more than 4,000 acres available for open riding, there are approximately 130 miles of developed trails. The SVRA also features the Quail Canyon Special Use Area, which includes the Quail Canyon Motocross Track, a premier motocross track designed by Roger Decoster. This area is a family-oriented facility offering a broad variety of OHV track opportunities for a range of OHVs.

Los Padres National Forest, Angeles National Forest, and Pyramid Lake

These areas are located adjacent to Hungry Valley SVRA and offer additional recreation options including camping, hiking, hunting, off-highway vehicle recreation, and boating opportunities on nearby Pyramid Lake. Hungry Valley SVRA is the main access point to Piru Creek and Alamo Mountain in the Los Padres National Forest, popular day use destinations. From the SVRA, OHV enthusiasts have easy access to Alamo Mountain.

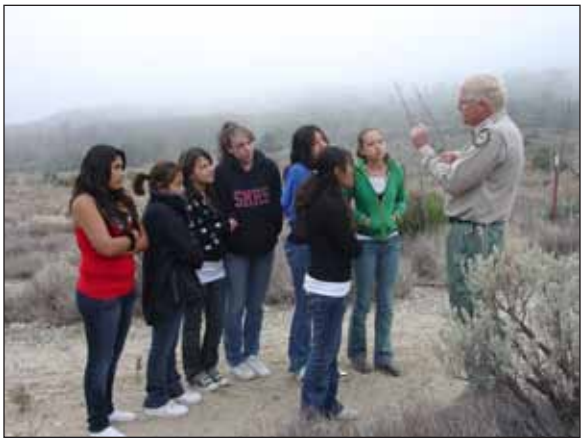
Wildflower Viewing

During the wildflower season, Hungry Valley SVRA offers a self-guided tour route, two-hour guided wildflower tours by staff, maps, and hiking opportunities throughout the park. In the spring, the wildflowers in the area are world renown for their color and abundance as the grassy hillsides turn brilliant shades of orange, yellow, and purple. During the springtime, park staff produces a weekly, updated flower guide on the wildflower bloom. It is available at the district office, website, and visitor kiosks.

Hiking

The SVRA offers an easy half-mile hike through its Oak Woodland Natural Preserve. The 60-acre natural preserve is located in the northwest area of Hungry Valley SVRA. A natural seep provides water for immense valley oaks and native grasses that cannot be found growing anywhere else in California.

Educational Programs



Park staff offer a variety of education programs for the public's enjoyment. Programs include Junior Ranger activities, group nature hikes, wildlife viewing, and on-site school programs. The park's education program provides valuable learning opportunities for local school groups including park tours, nature hikes, wildflower and Oak Woodland Natural Preserve tours, and Native American history lessons. The SVRA's Junior Ranger OHV program provides a fun and interesting way for kids to learn about the park. It also provides an important opportunity to educate kids - and parents - about OHV use, rider safety and respect for the park's natural and cultural resources. Additionally, in coordination with the Police Activities League, the park hosts the Off-Highway PAL program.

Facilities

Day Use and Camping

Hungry Valley SVRA is open for day use and camping seven days a week. The SVRA provides approximately 150 campsites throughout the park, including nine semi-developed campgrounds which provide shade ramadas, picnic tables, fire rings, and vault restrooms. Day use parking is allowed at any of the nine campgrounds with access to over 130 miles of established trails.

Park History

The park lands were originally home to the Tataviam Indians, who practiced a hunting and gatheringlifestyle. The tribe occupied the area until Euro-American influencein the 18th Century.

Hungry Valley was later the site of homesteading and ranching activities for more than 100 years. The sparsely inhabited region of Hungry Valley was used mainly by Anglo settlers between 1890 and 1940. The ruggedness of the terrain in the area, and the barren and marginally productive farmland meant that homesteaders in Hungry Valley lived under harsh economic conditions and settlement came slowly.

Besides agriculture activities, construction and installation of oil pipelines and roads, as well as mining activities occurred in the early 1900s. The 1920s and 1930s saw a variety of homesteading activities. However, most of these small homesteaders failed and were ultimately wiped out by drought. Thereafter, most lands in the Hungry Valley area was maintained by large landowners until it was purchased from the 1940's through the 1970's by the state and federal government agencies. Most of the land in Hungry Valley SVRA was acquired by California State Parks between 1978 and 1980.

Park Resources

Hungry Valley SVRA boasts broad vistas, rolling hills, and terraces carpeted with wildflowers, valley oaks, and native grasses. Hungry Valley staff work diligently to provide its visitors with quality OHV recreation while carefully balancing the impacts of OHV use with the protection of the park's natural and cultural resources. Effective resource management includes staff regularly monitoring the parks resources, various plants and animals, and fixing and stabilizing eroded areas. Selected areas of the park are also closed to protect sensitive resources.

Several different types of grassland communities occur in the SVRA. The park's riparian community is dominated by trees and shrubs, and the oak woodland community is dominated by valley oak, with an understory of primarily grasses and forbs. Hungry Valley is in the California Wildlife Region. A diversity of habitat in the SVRA supports a variety of wildlife including road runners, golden eagles, black-tailed deer, and bobcats. Coast horned lizards and prairie falcons may also be spotted in the park.

The condition and status of the natural and cultural resources in the SVRA, including a summary of resource monitoring data and restoration work, is discussed under those specifically titled sections within this report. Please refer to those sections for more detailed information.

Oceano Dunes SVRA

Oceano Dunes SVRA is located on California's Central Coast in San Luis Obispo County, within the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes complex. The SVRA is bordered on the north by the cities of Grover Beach and Pismo Beach, on the east by the city of Oceano, on the south by Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean.

Location: San Luis Obispo County

Total Park Acreage: 3,600

Year the Park became an SVRA: 1982

The SVRA offers 3,600 acres of beautiful scenery along the Pacific Ocean, including the beach, coastal sand dunes, wetlands, lakes, and riparian areas. Oceano Dunes' topography includes an active dune complex (shifting sand) that is geologically unique. The sand that formed these dunes was carried down to the ocean by rivers and streams, deposited on the beach by ocean currents, and then shaped by the wind into the dunes seen today in a process that is still ongoing. The sand dunes' distinctive features provide for impressive recreational opportunities for OHV enthusiasts visiting from all over the world. The park provides a unique opportunity for visitors to participate in motorized recreation on several miles of beach and coastal sand dunes. The SVRA has been a favorite camping and recreation site for families for over 100 years.

Elevations at the park range from sea level to 200 feet. Oceano Dunes experiences typical Central California coastal weather conditions, with daytime temperatures ranging from the low 50s to the high 70s throughout much of the year. Gusty afternoon wind and morning coastal fog are prevalent in the spring and summer months.

Recreational Opportunities

OHV Recreation

Of the 3,600 acres managed by Oceano Dunes staff, 1,500 acres of beach and dunes are available for OHV recreation. The SVRA is a favorite area for Californians to recreate on the beach

and dunes in a wide range of motorized vehicles, from standard highway vehicles to highly specialized dune buggies.

Training Area

ATV Safety Certificate courses are available at the park in a secure training area. Comprehensive ATV safety education programs provide an important opportunity to educate the public on safe and responsible use of OHVs and raise awareness of the park's resources.

Hiking / Birdwatching

In addition to motorized recreation, Oceano Dunes SVRA provides a wide array of other non-motorized recreation opportunities including hiking, nature walks, and birdwatching. South of the SVRA is the Oso Flaco Lakes area. This area consists of two freshwater lakes and dune complexes managed for non-motorized recreational uses. Visitors to the Oso Flaco area can enjoy a moderate walk along the one-mile ADA accessible boardwalk, observing wildlife and native plants as the path passes Oso Flaco Lake, leading out to the beach. Oso Flaco Lake is an important stopover for waterfowl traveling along the Pacific Flyway.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is welcome in the park. There is an equestrian staging area located near the beach entrance on Grand Avenue. Rides can also be arranged through the commercial stables located near the park.

Water Recreation

Surfing, boating, operating personal watercraft, kiteboarding, and paddling are some of the recreational watersports available at Oceano Dunes SVRA. Since motorized activity is allowed on the beach, those accessing the water for recreational purposes can park their vehicles and easily unload gear near the water's edge.

Education Programs

Staff at Oceano Dunes SVRA offers or hosts a variety of education and safety programs unique to the park. Programs include youth safety clinics, Junior Ranger programs, guided

walks, campfire programs and more. The park also hosts the Off-Highway PAL program. Education and outreach programs offer a fun and interesting way for both kids and adults to learn about the park and its important resources. Programs also provide an important opportunity to teach visitors about OHV use, rider safety, rules of the road, and how behavior and actions affect the park's natural and cultural resources.

Facilities

Day Use and Camping

The park offers primitive beach and dune camping with no designated campsites. Day use access to the beach is available daily from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm. The camping limit is 1,000 street legal vehicles per day. Camping is also available off the beach at the North Beach and Oceano Campgrounds. These two campgrounds provide conventional amenities such as picnic tables, fire rings, and restrooms.

Park History

The Chumash Indians lived in the Oceano Dunes area for thousands of years. Evidence of their presence can be seen in several locations in the dunes in the form of "middens," which are piles of shells left after the Chumash collected them for food. These middens are protected by state and federal law.

The first documentation of motorized vehicles being operated on the beach was a 1906 newspaper article announcing that Ford Motor Company was meeting in Pismo Beach for a rally between California's northern and southern car dealerships. Early photos depict families enjoying the beach and dunes in horse drawn carriages and on bicycles.

Pavilion Hill, a large vegetated dune, is named for the huge Victorian style dance pavilion which was built at the turn of the twentieth century. There was also a pier extending into the ocean in front of the Pavilion. The Pavilion was torn down in 1921 as it was in disrepair after years of existence on a naturally moving sand dune. During the depression years of the 1930s extending into

the 1940s, a colony of artists, writers, and others known as the Dunites lived east of the dunes.

The original park land holding was acquired and operated as an SVRA in 1974. It was then called the Pismo Dunes SVRA and it was managed by the California State Parks San Luis Obispo Coast District as an extension of Pismo State Beach. Over the years, additional adjacent properties were acquired, extending the SVRA. In 1982, the California Park and Recreation Commission established a new district and the OHMVR Division took over active management for the park. Thereafter, the park was named Oceano Dunes SVRA.

Park Resources

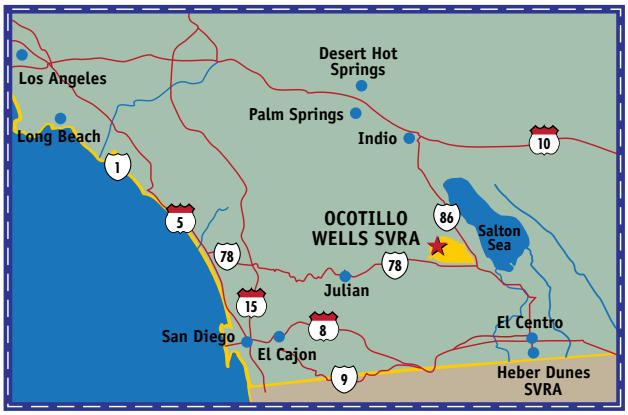
A wide variety of plants and animals thrive in the park's harsh environment of sand, salt, and wind, including wildflowers, small mammals, insects, and a variety of small birds including hawks, owls, pelicans, and gulls. Effective resource management includes protecting vegetated areas of the park, monitoring wildlife and their habitats, and protecting sensitive habitats and endangered species.

Oceano Dunes SVRA provides some of the most productive breeding habitat along the California coast for the federally-threatened western snowy plover and the state and federally-endangered California least tern. During the nesting season from March 1 - September 30, approximately 260 acres of the park's camping and recreation area, and an additional 70 acres in the non-OHV area of Oso Flaco, are closed to protect these species.

The condition and status of the natural and cultural resources in the SVRA, including a summary of resource monitoring data and restoration work, is discussed under those specifically titled sections within this report. Please refer to those sections for more detailed information.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA

Ocotillo Wells SVRA is the largest of the SVRAs consisting of more than 85,000 acres of Southern California desert. The SVRA is located near the Salton Sea and covers portions of both San Diego and Imperial Counties. Ocotillo Wells SVRA offers a wide range of opportunities for OHV recreation and exploration, as well as for hiking, biking, geocaching, and camping. In fact, it is possible to explore the park's open environment and varied terrain for days without having to retrace your tracks. Visitors marvel at the many exotically named natural wonders such as Blow Sand Hill, Devil's Slide, and the Badlands.



Location: San Diego and Imperial Counties

Total Park Acreage: 85,000

Year the Park became an SVRA: 1981

Elevations at Ocotillo Wells SVRA range from 176 feet below sea level to approximately 400 feet above sea level. The extreme terrain and intense climate have challenged both the skills and endurance of OHV recreation enthusiasts for generations.

Recreational Opportunities

OHV Recreation

The SVRA offers a variety of OHV recreational opportunities for different types of OHVs. Some areas of the park offer open riding while other areas of the park allow riding on trails and roads only.

In partnership with the BLM, Ocotillo Wells manages and operates BLM lands to the south and east of the park as part of the larger SVRA. The western boundary and part of the northern boundary borders the half-million acre Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, which is open to exploration only by highway-legal vehicles (no non-highway registered vehicles are allowed). along the park's primitive road system.

Self-guided OHV tours are available at Ocotillo Wells SVRA, taking visitors to interesting and unique features

throughout the park, including Shell Reef, Barrel Springs, the Pumpkin Patch, and the Gas Domes.

Youth Track

The Harold Soens Youth Track is designated for riders 12 years old or younger, riding 70cc or less. It is a great place for kids to ride under the guidance of parent supervision.

Geocaching

Ocotillo Wells SVRA offers a unique location for those interested in geocaching, an exciting recreational activity for the entire family. Participants use Geographical Positioning System (GPS) coordinates to locate hidden "caches." While the park fully supports responsible geocaching, damaging resources is never tolerated.

In 2009, Ocotillo Wells SVRA hosted the first ever geocaching event in California State Parks' history. This one of a kind event, which attracted over 700 people in its first year, provides innumerable opportunities for staff to engage park visitors in the discovery and understanding of the park's natural and cultural resources.

Hiking

In addition to the OHV recreation opportunities within the park, there are also many hiking opportunities available. The park offers guided and self-guided walks.

Horseback Riding

Riding is permitted in the park, but no dedicated facilities are available.

Education Programs

Park staff provides a comprehensive education program from October through April. Programs include desert animal exhibits, star and moon gazing, OHV tours, Junior Ranger activities, and traditional evening campfire programs. The park also hosts Off-Highway PAL programs. Education programs available at the SVRA teach and inspire visitors to learn more about the park's resources, the desert, wildlife habitats, and its fascinating geologic features. Visitors can

enjoy staff-led geology and wildlife viewing tours on ATVs. In addition to these programs, SVRA staff also provides outreach and education for schools and youth programs, highlighting desert animal safety, rider safety, and career opportunities.

Facilities

Day Use and Camping

Day use and camping facilities are available throughout the park, including open camping for up to 30 days per calendar year. Developed campsite areas include vault restrooms, shade ramadas, picnic tables, and fire rings. Additional shade ramadas and picnic tables are located throughout the park for day use. Adjacent to the Discovery Center is a day use picnic area which includes an accessible walkway, native plant garden, and interpretive panels.

Discovery Center and Amphitheater

The Discovery Center features fun and interesting displays about the desert, as well as hands-on activities for the whole family to enjoy. The Discovery Center is also a great place to pick up a park map, a visitor's guide, and a schedule of the week's activities. An ADA accessible amphitheater located just west of the Discovery Center, allows experienced staff to present a wide variety of free programs on archaeology, astronomy, desert wildlife, local history, and many other topics of interest.

Park History

Ocotillo Wells SVRA has had a rich and varied history. Native peoples lived and traveled throughout the region for centuries. Early Spanish explorers trekked across the land leading scouting parties in search of an overland route to Alta California.

For several decades in the early 20th century, wildcatting oil speculators unsuccessfully drilled for "black gold" in Ocotillo Wells. In the 1930s, movie moguls sent Hollywood production companies to Ocotillo Wells where they filmed a number of well-known movies. During World War II, the U.S. government commandeered portions of the land for military training and a firing range. Surplus Jeeps were

among the first recreational vehicles used to explore the park just after the war.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA was established in 1979. Prior to this, the area was part of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Before the area became a state park, the lands were owned by many different people. Today, there are still over 600 private inholdings in the park.

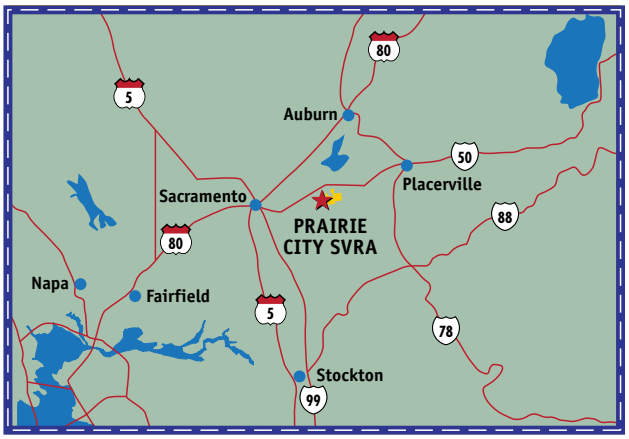
Park Resources

Ocotillo Wells staff balance OHV recreation with protection of the park's truly unique natural, cultural, and geological resources. The desert habitats are very fragile and take extraordinarily long periods of time to recover. Distinct to the Ocotillo Wells SVRA is its interesting geologic natural wonders. In addition, the SVRA is designated aArcharchaeological site cona State "Watchable Wildlife" site. The SVRA is a great place to observe a wide variety of fascinating desert creatures—from jackrabbits and coyotes to desert iguana and zebra-tailed lizards, from sidewinder rattlesnakes to the classic roadrunner.

The condition and status of the natural and cultural resources in the SVRA, including a summary of resource monitoring data and restoration work, is discussed under those specifically titled sections within this report. Please refer to those sections for more detailed information.

Prairie City SVRA

Prairie City SVRA is an urban OHV park located at the base of the Sierra Nevada foothills approximately 25 miles east of Sacramento and 60 miles west of Lake Tahoe. Flat, open grasslands, rolling hills with native blue oak trees, and acres of cobbled mine tailings span the park providing for an array of OHV recreation opportunities. The SVRA extends more than 1,000 acres and offers OHV enthusiasts a variety of terrain, trails, open riding, and an extensive selection of tracks operated by concessionaires. Park elevations range from 260 to 342 feet above sea level. Summers at the park are dry and hot, while winters tend to have dense fog in the mornings and occasional heavy rains.



Location: Sacramento County

Total Park Acreage: 1,047

Year the Park became an SVRA: 1989

Recreational Opportunities

OHV Recreation

Prairie City SVRA offers approximately 700 acres of motorized recreation for public use. OHV recreational opportunities include terrain, trails, and tracks for motorcycles, ATVs, 4x4s, RUVs, Karts, and Quarter Midgets. Most of the trails in the park available for motorcycles and ATVs are beginner or intermediate level with a few expert trails.

Tracks

In addition to the trails and areas throughout the park, there are also separate motorcycles and ATV practice tracks. Privately operated

concessionaires provide a number of specialty tracks including the Hangtown Track, a Quarter Midget Track, Kart Track, and Arena Cross TT.

Hangtown MX Track

The Hangtown MX Track is operated by a private concessionaire. Just over a mile in length with challenging terrain and high jumps, this track is designed for expert level motocross riders. In the spring, the track is home to the annual Hangtown National Motocross Classic. The first Hangtown race took place in 1969, making it the longest running national series motocross race. It has been held at Prairie City since 1979, and is one of the largest outdoor sporting events in Sacramento County with more than 25,000 spectators. It is the only outdoor national race still promoted by a nonprofit club, the Dirt Diggers North Motorcycle Club.

Special Events

Prairie City SVRA hosts numerous OHV events each year. Popular events include Hare Scrambles, the VORRA off-road truck and buggy series, Kart and Quarter Midget races, supermoto competitions, and the annual Hangtown National Motocross Classic.

Mountain Biking

On Wednesday evenings, during the spring and fall, mountain bike enthusiasts can enjoy the park as they practice and test their skills.

Education Programs

Through portable staffed exhibits and special events, Prairie City SVRA's education programs provide an important opportunity to teach kids about responsible OHV use, safety, rider ethics, and awareness and protection of the park's natural and cultural resources. The park also hosts the Off-Highway PAL program.

Facilities

Day Use and Camping

The SVRA offers shaded picnic sites, barbecue grills, fire pits, and restrooms in the Staging Area. Day use parking is provided in the Staging Area and at designated areas near the various tracks and 4x4 area. There are no camping facilities at the park.

Environmental Training Center

The Environmental Training Center, or ETC, provides a venue for promoting safe and sustainable OHV recreation practices by educating OHV recreationists on environmental responsibility and safe vehicle operation. The ETC building, which houses a classroom, locker room, and office space, was constructed of recycled materials and uses solar panels to generate 100% of its energy. It also provides charging stations for electric vehicles. Visitors can see and learn about alternative fuel vehicles including electric motorcycles, electric utility vehicles, and other technological advancements to help reduce the environmental impacts of vehicles.

The ETC rider training area consists of a level dirt riding arena and a 3-acre trail system designed to mimic natural riding conditions. The level training area is used by certified professional trainers to teach new riders about proper riding techniques, while the trail system allows students a place to practice their new skills. The OHV safety training program promotes safe and responsible riding ethics to students, and assists them in minimizing their impact on the environment by emphasizing the importance of staying on the trail and maintaining control of their vehicle.

The landscape in the trail system features examples of six different California ecosystems, including desert, chaparral, oak woodland, conifer forest, sand dunes, and a riparian zone. Participants learn real-world off-highway vehicle

riding techniques and environmentally responsible riding ethics while negotiating varying terrain and natural obstacles similar to that found in some OHV recreation areas.

Park History

The park lands were originally home to the Valley Nisenan Maidu Native Americans. The Maidu people occupied the eastern portions of the middle and lower Sacramento Valley and Sierra foothills until the discovery of gold and the ensuing Gold Rush.

Prairie City SVRA takes its name from the gold rush mining community that was located just northeast of the present-day park. Today, reminders of that 1850s community can be seen in the acres of cobbled mine tailings left after dredges combed the ancient river beds in search of gold in the late 1800s, and a historical marker just outside the park—California Historical Landmark #464. After the gold mining days, the area became home to a number of cattle ranches.

In the early 1960s, Aerojet General Corporation purchased the southern portion of the existing park to build and test rocket engines for the federal government. Today, you can still see both the test rocket launch pit, and the dome-shaped control room called the “Moon Room.”

In 1972, Roy and Mary McGill leased 435 acres of the present park site from Aerojet General Corporation and created a motorcycle riding and competition facility called McGill Off-Highway Vehicle Park. Sacramento County purchased the area in 1975. An additional 401 acres was purchased in 1976, and in July 1988, the park was turned over to the OHMVR Division.

Park Resources

Prairie City’s terrain varies from flat, open grasslands to rolling hills covered with native blue oak trees. The grasslands attract golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, killdeer, northern harriers, various songbirds, and many small mammals. Quail, wild turkeys, and woodpeckers shelter under the oaks, deer graze in the area, and occasionally coyotes and bobcats can be spotted.

Selected areas of the SVRA are closed to protect sensitive natural resources. Approximately 150 acres of the park are designated as an ecological reserve to protect the vernal pool habitat and the fairy shrimp, a federally-listed special status species. There are also lands surrounding sections of the park which are closed to provide a “buffer” to the neighbors and to protect OHV opportunities in the SVRA.

The condition and status of the natural and cultural resources in the SVRA, including a summary of resource monitoring data and restoration work, is discussed under those specifically titled sections within this report. Please refer to those sections for more detailed information.

Interpretation, Education, and Hands-on Training

The OHMVR Division is committed to developing high quality interpretation, education, and hands-on training programs that focus on increasing understanding and appreciation for California's diverse OHV opportunities, natural and cultural resources, and the importance of recreating responsibly.

At the OHMVR Division we celebrate and support public outreach, interpretation and education efforts in our SVRAs and with all our partners who have an interest in OHV recreation. The OHMVR Division believes the best way to protect recreational opportunities and the environment is to build understanding in those who visit California's public lands so that they choose to act responsibly.

The OHV Program is as diverse as is the State itself. The variety of our programs speak to the variety people, habitats, technologies, attitudes, and beliefs and interests of Californians. Cities, counties, BLM, USFS, clubs, organizations, non-profits and educational institutions—everyone who cares about people, the environment, and OHV recreation must work together to send a consistent message about responsible use.

Education, interpretation and outreach is accomplished at the SVRAs through various programs, activities, and special events. This includes campfire programs, guided riding tours, desert animal exhibits, 4x4 history tours, and the Junior Ranger Program that promotes responsible behavior and environmental stewardship for youth. Creating the ethic of protecting public lands and their recreational opportunities should be made a cultural norm for development of life-long values.

Through integration with the USFS, the BLM and the California K-12 curriculum, the Division is continuing to evolve its outreach program placing emphasis on the rules and regulations associated with operating OHVs safely, the importance of responsible OHV use, the need to respect private property, the damage and consequences created by trespassing into closed areas, and the commitment to staying on and sharing the trails.

Dirt Bike and ATV safety classes are available at the SVRAs and are taught by park employees as well as private instructors. The OHMVR Division also pays the tuition for any youth under 18 years who enroll in the ATV safety training programs.

The OHMVR Division sponsors the Off-Highway PAL and SnoPAL programs. These programs pair up at-risk youth participating in the California Police Activity League with instructors and equipment (ATVs, motorcycles and snowmobiles). The PAL program uses the appeal of OHV recreation as a "gateway activity" to welcome young people into a learning environment which promotes responsible recreation, and understanding and appreciation of the outdoors.

Volunteers and Nonprofits

Since the inception of the OHMVR Program 40 years ago, by founders Chappie and Z'berg, volunteers have been an integral part of the Program. The combined effort of these dedicated groups and individuals has resulted in thousands of hours of time given to our parks and public lands. Volunteers have a variety of skills and abilities that provide essential support—from trail maintenance, and education and interpretation, to working at the special event or in the office—we couldn't do it without the focused efforts of our volunteers!

Volunteers represent a cross section of those who visit our parks. They bring ideas, views, and approaches which enrich the SVRA and the resources we protect. Volunteers contribute to park visitors' knowledge, encourage interest, and increase enjoyment while assisting with park operations and special projects. They remind us about our mission and what it truly means.

Volunteers are an essential link in the overall operation of State Parks. They provide park visitors information that may not be available from the state, and they interpret park history and features in a manner that is engaging and enjoyable.

The OHMVR Division would like to recognize the concerted efforts of everyone involved in our Volunteer Program! Your contribution enriches our parks; your spirit energizes us. Without your support, we would not be able to provide the high quality recreation opportunities that exist today.

Thank you!

Report Requirement No. 1

The results of the strategic planning process completed pursuant to subdivision (1) of Section 5090.32.

OHMVR Division Strategic Plan

In 2008, the Division began the process of developing a shared vision with the Commission, and developing a Strategic Plan to achieve that vision. Based on a series of meetings with the Commission Subcommittee and the public, a Vision Statement was created and approved by the Commission.

VISION STATEMENT

The OHMVR Division will assure ongoing access to a wide variety of high quality OHV recreational opportunities through our commitment to prudent resource management, outdoor management, outdoor recreation, community education and environmental stewardship.

Through an extensive process that included internal staff workshops and public meetings, the Division conducted a comprehensive assessment of external and internal factors that affect the OHMVR Program. Based on the information gleaned during this process, the Division developed strategic planning goals and objectives.

Public review meetings, workshops, and focus group meetings were conducted to develop the draft that was submitted to the Commission for review and comment. After incorporating changes based on the Commission comments and Commission meetings, as well as comments from the public, the Strategic Plan was completed and submitted in the fall of 2009 to the Governor and Department of Finance for approval.

The Strategic Plan provides a road map for the OHMVR Division and is based on four strategic themes and five guiding principles.

Based on these strategic themes and guiding principles, the Strategic Plan adopts a framework of six goals for the OHMVR Program in order to meet its legislative mandates.

For each of the goals listed above, the Strategic Plan lays out specific objectives to be implemented to achieve the goal. The objectives include anticipated timeframes for completion, and also describe performance measures which can be tracked to verify objectives have been accomplished. Finally, resource assumptions are included for each objective which indicates whether additional resources will be needed in order to achieve the objective.

GOAL 1 - Sustain Existing Opportunity: *Protect, preserve, and enhance existing OHV opportunities in a manner that ensures well managed, interesting, and high quality experiences, and address the environmental impacts that may be associated with those activities.*

GOAL 2 - Increase OHV Opportunity: *Add new OHV opportunities where appropriate and needed to replace loss of existing opportunities and respond to changing and future demand.*

GOAL 3 - Staff Development: *Enhance the abilities of Program managers and staff dedicated to the development, management, and implementation of the OHMVR Program.*

GOAL 4 - Develop an Informed and Educated Community: *Achieve a highly informed and educated community associated with OHV recreational activities, dedicated to safe and lawful OHV operation and responsible environmental stewardship.*

GOAL 5 - Cooperative Relationships: *Establish and maintain productive relationships between individuals, organizations, industry, and government agencies to cooperatively identify problems and develop and implement solutions to advance the Mission and Goals of the OHMVR Program.*

GOAL 6 - Informed Decision Making: *Improve the quality, quantity, and accessibility of information needed to support sound decision making, transparency of administration, and communication with the interrelated groups interested in, and associated with, the OHMVR Program.*

STRATEGIC THEMES

- ✓ Emphasize the Basics
- ✓ The Greening of OHV Recreation
- ✓ Improving Technology
- ✓ The New Gateway

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ✓ Sustainability
- ✓ Transparency in Decision Making
- ✓ Working with Partners and Volunteers
- ✓ Considering the Needs and Concerns of Stakeholders
- ✓ Sound Data for Management Decision Making

Report Requirement No. 2

The condition of natural and cultural resources of areas and trails receiving state off-highway motor vehicle funds and the resolution of conflicts of use in those areas and trails.

Condition of Resources in SVRAs

Protecting natural and cultural resources is essential to ensure OHV recreation areas are managed to sustain long-term use. Overall, the condition of natural and cultural resources being managed through financial contributions from the OHMVR Program have benefited from recent changes in the state's OHMVR Program. Though much has been accomplished, the OHMVR Program must continue its efforts to protect lands, maintain habitat, and repair damage caused by both legal and unauthorized OHV recreation.

The Division directly manages eight SVRAs. Below is a brief description of the condition of natural resources in these areas.

Carnegie SVRA – Natural Resources

Located in the coastal hills of western San Joaquin and eastern Alameda counties, the topography of Carnegie SVRA is steep, with several vegetation communities represented, including California annual grassland, blue oak, California sagebrush-black sage, and mule fat. The climate is Mediterranean, with cool, wet winters and hot dry summers.

The park currently owns approximately 5,000 acres. Of that acreage, approximately 1,500 acres are open to the public for OHV use; the remainder is awaiting the preparation of a General Plan. The public use area is divided by use type; open riding and trails only. Approximately half of the park on the north side, which typically consists of areas that are grasslands with more durable clay soils, is "open riding." Although these clay soils have been ridden on for several decades, years of observations and monitoring show few signs of erosion or degradation. The other half, the south side, is the "trails only" area, which comprises the more sensitive habitats of the park (coastal scrub and oak woodland). The soils in these habitats are less stable and need vegetation to minimize erosion from storm water, while the vegetation, once disturbed, can take years to re-establish. These two designations were established in the

park's General Plan (1981). Orange carsonite markers installed in 2004 clearly delineate the boundary between the two use areas, informing visitors when they cross from one riding zone into the other.

The current health of the ecosystem, as measured by amphibian presence and bird species richness, appears good (see species monitoring in Report Requirement No. 4). New HMS protocols are in place this year and will provide a more complete and comprehensive measurement of ecosystem health.

The park is home to the federally-listed threatened California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander. Because of the presence of these listed species, along with the need to clean out sediment basins annually, several permits are in place, issued by both state and federal agencies starting in 2005.

The park also maintains an industrial storm water permit from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQBC) for the Tesla mining district at the upstream end of the park. Per the requirements of this permit, the park began the process of installing temporary erosion and sediment control measures, best management practices (BMPs), such as silt fence, rock bag check dams, and culvert replacement, aimed at decreasing stormwater run off and improving water quality. Twice each year, the run off from the site is analyzed for sediment, oil, grease, and total organic carbon. The results are mixed, and more samples will be needed in order to reach conclusions with any level of confidence. Although anecdotal, the visual inspections have indicated these measures do reduce the amount of sediment in the storm water. For example, at the end of the 2009-2010 season the three foot tall silt fence (sediment capturing measure) had retained only one foot of sediment, significantly less than in previous years. Each year, park staff evaluate, record, and submit this data to the RWQCB. Permanent BMPs and erosion control measures are being established using data from previous efforts.

In 2004-2007, a watershed analysis (Corral Hollow Watershed Assessment – June 2007) was conducted by Salix Applied Earthcare and Geosyntec Consultants for of all the state parcels owned within the Corral Hollow Creek watershed, a seasonal drainage running along the northern park boundary. The watershed analysis assessed the park's water quality issues

and identified possible problem areas while proposing small and large-scale solutions. This comprehensive study has provided the background needed to plan future improvement projects (e.g., road and trail maintenance and realignment and restoration of Corral Hollow Creek) and has focused management efforts on locating and improving specific issues within the park. As an example, the primary trails, which are also the emergency access roads, were divided into several sections based on shared physical characteristics. Each section was evaluated based on grade, existing drainage, erosion potential, delivery potential, and an estimate of past soil loss. This evaluation resulted in a prescription for maintenance activities along each segment, as well as a priority rating. While some of the recommendations were implemented during the annual maintenance activities, the majority will be executed as a major capital outlay project (currently in the planning phase).

In conjunction with these projects, staff has implemented an intensive sign program to better assist visitors with understanding where they can and cannot recreate, as well as providing information about sustaining a healthy habitat and water quality. These projects continue to improve OHV recreation opportunities by developing better managed trail systems and, at the same time, ensuring sustainability of park lands and resources through proactive BMPs.

Clay Pit SVRA – Natural Resources

Clay Pit SVRA is surrounded by the Oroville Municipal Airport, ranchland, a California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) shooting range and CDFG wildlife area. The bowl-shaped topography has largely been created by past excavation of clay minerals used in the construction of the Oroville Dam, and dredge tailings from gold mining remain, primarily in the southeastern corner of the park. A shallow canal partially bisects the northern one-third of the park. The northern, upstream end of the canal is fed by a very small, seasonal drainage that originates outside the park to the north, draining part of the adjacent airport and surrounding uplands.

Habitat diversity is limited within the park, although seasonally wet areas cover as much as 15% of the total acreage. Most of the park consists of upland areas that experience dry, hot conditions during the summer and early fall. Vegetation within the park consists of three distinct plant communities. Upland locations, which are non-wetland areas, are vegetated with low growing grasses. Lowland locations consist mostly of wetland vegetation associated with vernal pool habitat, and a few areas consist of other wetland vegetation such as spikerush. Fremont cottonwoods are also found scattered throughout the park, offering areas of shade for park visitors in the summer months.

Wetland delineations were completed in 2005[1] and 2008[2] and provided classification of the existing vegetation. Together the two delineations identified almost 200 separate wetlands, including vernal pools. These delineations of the vernal pools identified various aquatic flowering plants and biota, including the federally-listed threatened vernal pool fairy shrimp. Additionally, a sensitive plant species survey[3] and a bird survey were completed in 2005.

Many vernal pool features throughout the SVRA have been heavily impacted by soil disturbance, either from OHV use or historic mining activities. The OHV activity creates rills and shallow depressions in which ponding occurs, giving rise to hydrophytic (aquatic) vegetation. The hydrophytic vegetation is in a continual state of disturbance and re-establishment from OHV activities.

The greatest challenge facing Clay Pit SVRA is the ability to develop recreational opportunities while protecting and enhancing the existing vernal pool habitat. Although the park unit is quite small—approximately 220 acres—and does not draw a large number of visitors each year, the construction of new facilities could increase park visitation numbers.

Although the site currently provides very little structured recreation, the local OHV community enjoys the park unit for its open riding and hill climbing features. Over the last few years, park staff have worked with the park visitors to assess their needs and determine what facilities might be beneficial. Most of the facilities requested, such as tracks and staging areas, could be constructed in upland areas, which would help lessen impacts to the vernal pools. A park General Plan is currently under way and will provide strategies and alternatives for development and restoration activities, along with guidance from regulatory agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), CDFG, Army Corp of Engineers and the RWQCB.

Hydrology and run-on drainage issues from adjacent lands are problematic as the property receives a good deal of storm water run-on and can flood from waters of the Feather River. A hydrology study currently underway will assess site conditions including non-point source pollution, sediment generation, and general hydrological conditions to assist staff in developing adaptive storm water management actions. The results of this survey will be available in 2011. Preliminary results are not yet available.

Hollister Hills SVRA – Natural Resources

Located just an hour's drive from San Jose, Hollister Hills SVRA is situated in the Gabilan Mountains at elevations from 660 feet to 2,425 feet. Adobe and granitic soils are present, predominantly separated by the San Andreas Fault that runs through the park. Topography on the property ranges from the foothills to mountain ridgeline.

Vegetation communities consist of annual grassland, conifer forest, pine woodland, riparian-oak woodland, and high and low chaparral, neighbored by agricultural areas. Common wildlife in the park include black-tailed deer, coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, ground squirrels, bats, red-tailed hawks, western meadowlarks, wild turkeys, western fence lizards, and gopher snakes.

Hollister Hills integrates natural features into effective strategies that help address the concerns of nearby community members and landowners. For example, the two primary by-products of OHV use that affect the park's neighbors are noise and fugitive dust levels. The Hollister Hills trail design team takes advantage of the land's natural contours designing trails that limit the effect of OHV sound on neighboring properties.[4] Another example is the adobe soil areas in the park. These soils are high in clay content which minimizes erosion and reduces airborne dust. This resistance to erosion, coupled with appropriate trail design, helps ensure clean water quality and trail sustainability. Reduction of dust promotes good neighbor relations. Trails that exist in other types of soil are constructed away from neighbors and require additional erosion control features.

In 2008, Hollister Hills opened the Hudner and Renz properties. The trails were designed on land which had previously been surveyed for sensitive plants and animals thus reducing the impacts to the habitat. To protect the California tiger salamander, certain trails were seasonally closed during the breeding season. In addition, every effort was made to use the land's natural contours to channel sounds way from neighboring properties and to site the trails in areas that would minimize the impacts of dust and sound. Trails were located in areas where surveys indicated the presence of soil types resistant to erosion. The end result yielded increased OHV opportunity.

Hollister Hills SVRA continuously seeks to foster partnerships and takes a collaborative approach to address issues and develop methods that sustain OHV recreation. For example, in 2009 park staff created a new internship program in partnership with West Valley College, San Jose State University, and Fresno State University. The internships last between 10 and

14 weeks. Since the program's inception, three interns have been through the program and were subsequently hired into the Environmental Management Program at the District. Interns have the opportunity to work in a variety of program areas at the SVRA, including resource management, interpretation, maintenance and operations, and public safety. Through the course of their internships, each student gains exposure to, and develops an understanding and working knowledge of, the actual operations of Hollister Hills SVRA. Additionally, the interns assist with photo archiving of native plants found in the park, GIS mapping, and developing visitor surveys. Each intern completes a project or develops a program related to public education and/or natural resources.

This internship program helps increase resource awareness of the dynamic park programs at Hollister Hills by reaching out beyond the traditional OHV community for ideas, support, and education. It gives job experience for local students and provides Hollister Hills with high quality interns who are ready to work at the park, or in other resource management or recreational settings, full time after they graduate. Hollister Hills SVRA is currently negotiating with California State University at Monterey Bay (CSUMB) for a five-year MOU incorporating the use of interns from CSUMB to help monitor and collect water samples for input on watershed management.

Invasive exotic plants are a growing problem for Hollister Hills SVRA, as they are throughout California. Hollister Hills has had a program to manage invasive plants for many years. Staffing changes and shortages have occasionally led to periods when park staff were unable to fully implement program goals. This inconsistent approach has resulted in limited success in eradicating invasive species. Some prescribed burns, grazing, and biological treatments were implemented, but lacked coordinated efforts. However, plans are now in place to modernize the management program for controlling invasive species. For example, yellow starthistle is the greatest threat to the park's natural resources and is an increasing problem for the entire state. Some estimates suggest that over 10 million acres of California are currently infested by this exotic, approximately 10% of the total surface area of the state.[5] The primary focus of the park's current weed management program is to eradicate this and other exotic species by

depleting the seed banks and/or the root system of the plants. The program involves mowing and grazing of infected fields before the plants go to seed. If the program is maintained for several years, the seed banks are exhausted and the plants will start to die off. The timing of these programs must be precise and consistent because if they are allowed to go to seed then the whole program must be reset.

A critical tool for successfully controlling invasive plants is the gathering of accurate and continuous data. Park staff recently purchased GIS/GPS equipment and software and will create a weed database that will be used to monitor exotic plants within the park. The data will then be used to determine the best control methods for each population. Mowing, grazing, herbicide application, and prescribed burns are all methods that park staff will implement to eliminate or control the spread of exotics within the park.

Hollister Hills SVRA has partnered with the San Benito County Weed Management Area (SBCWMA) in the eradication of noxious plants. SBCWMA was created as a partnership between private and public land managers with the intent of stopping the introduction and expansion of invasive weeds in the County. Invasive plants do not respect property lines or jurisdictions, therefore in order to effectively manage these invasive species in the park, staff must work effectively with neighbors to develop and implement control measures. This partnership allows park staff to share resources and knowledge with other agencies such as BLM, the County Agriculture Commissioner, and the National Parks Service. Staff works with SBCWMA to develop outreach programs, including a brochure given to land managers, cattle ranchers, and farmers throughout the region, to increase awareness and knowledge of the damaging effects that invasive plants pose. Staff has partnered with SBCWMA to sponsor and host booths at fairs, symposiums, and workshops for local land managers. This outreach has been successful in increasing public understanding regarding the harmful effects of invasive plants.

Feral pigs are another species introduced to California that have established populations throughout the state. Pig behavior is extremely disruptive and damaging to native habitats. Pigs are large animals that have no sweat glands, so they cool off by wallowing in mud. They also forage for food by digging. Both of these activities lead to behaviors which destroy vegetation and disturb sensitive wetland and riparian habitat. At Hollister Hills SVRA, pigs cause the greatest impact and disturbance to habitat areas which are home to the federally-listed threatened California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander. To protect the park's resources, a feral pig reduction

program has been established, and pigs within the park are trapped and killed in an effort to reduce their numbers and consequently their impacts.

The park's proximity to urban areas and its high visibility require the implementation of several management approaches as part of daily operations. They include non-motorized open space areas, which have been established both in and around the park, continuous monitoring of dust and sound levels that originate within the park, and a 15-year grazing program, which primarily utilizes the buffer areas of the Renz property. Approximately 1,300 acres in the park are grazed. This multi-use program, which is discussed in greater detail in Report Requirement No. 4, helps reduce fuel loads and therefore aids in fire prevention and also aids in weed management in grassland areas.

The program is in compliance with state and federal guidelines that regulate ambient air quality standards. The real time data collected will be used to actively monitor dust levels within the park.

Hungry Valley SVRA – Natural Resources

Hungry Valley SVRA is located next to Interstate 5 on the Tejon Pass in the intersection of the Transverse, Tehachapi, and Coastal ranges of Southern California. The park is bordered on the north by Tejon Ranch, on the west by Los Padres National Forest, on the east by the Department of Water Resources, and on the south by the Angeles National Forest. Hungry Valley contains four distinct physiographic units. The first is Hungry Valley proper, a large valley in the western portion of the park. The second is Freeman Canyon, a badland-type environment (an area characterized by extensive natural erosion) in the middle of the unit. The third is the Gorman Creek drainage along the north and east sides of the park. The fourth is Canada de Los Alamos, a large, relatively flat plane in the southern portion of the park with a deep canyon cutting through the area supporting riparian vegetation.

Vegetation within the park is diverse due to the convergence of several California floristic regions. Major vegetation communities include chaparral, pinon-juniper woodland, grassland, riparian woodland, juniper shrubland, oak woodland, and mixed shrubland. The 60-acre Oak Woodland Natural Preserve in the northwest area of Hungry Valley SVRA protects a natural seep that

provides water for immense valley oaks with an understory of native grasses. This is an extremely rare and unique habitat, and is therefore closed to motorized recreation.

During the formation of the Hungry Valley SVRA, ecologists from the California State Parks recognized a unique six square mile area along the northern boundary of the park which contained the native valley grassland plant community. A management plan,[6] formulated in 1981, recommended that the entire 4,200 acres be set aside as the "Hungry Valley Native Grasslands Management Area" (NGMA). Vehicular recreation is still allowed in this area; however vehicles are required to stay on clearly identified trails established by park staff to protect this sensitive plant community.

An extensive vegetation and wildlife monitoring program was created for Hungry Valley in 1997. At that time, a vegetation and wildlife survey was conducted by the Soil Ecology and Restoration Group from San Diego State University (SDSU).[7] Specific monitoring protocols were established by SDSU in collaboration with the OHMVR Division Habitat Monitoring System (HMS) team. These protocols were used during this survey to gather data on vegetation and wildlife at randomly selected monitoring plots throughout the SVRA. OHV plots within each habitat type were paired with control plots in non-OHV areas. That same year the HMS[8] was completed by the OHMVR Division. This document used the SDSU protocols to establish biotic inventory and monitoring methods and also set up data analysis and interpretation guidelines to determine long term effects of OHV recreation on the habitats of Hungry Valley as well as the other SVRAs.

During this same period of time, Hungry Valley began building and training its resource protection staff. Comprised of environmental scientists, vegetation managers, erosion and trail professionals, this staff has the responsibility to monitor and assess the habitats and trail conditions of the entire SVRA. They also aggressively implement protection measures as needed. (See summary of resource monitoring data compiled and restoration work completed in Report Requirement No. 4.)

Through 14 years of extensive and consistent habitat, wildlife, and soil monitoring at Hungry Valley SVRA, the following conclusions have been drawn by the District Senior Environmental Scientist. Out of 20,000 total acres, approximately 15,000 acres of Hungry Valley SVRA are managed as trail areas with a low density of trails per acre. The analysis of the habitat

monitoring data shows the diversity, density, and distribution of species has not significantly changed in these areas. OHV recreation is not substantially affecting the habitats, soils, or wildlife in the trail areas. These areas of Hungry Valley SVRA are in a sustainable equilibrium between the impacts of the OHV recreation and the protection and restoration efforts of the management policies.

Approximately 1,000 acres of Hungry Valley SVRA are closed to OHV recreation and are managed as natural or cultural preserves. These areas are in pristine natural condition and have little or no recreational impacts.

Approximately 4,000 acres of Hungry Valley SVRA are designated and managed as “Open Riding”. Within this zone is a 2,000 acre area designated as “Open Camping”. These areas are more heavily impacted by OHV recreation. In an effort to balance these impacts and make the recreational use in these areas sustainable, management has taken several actions (see Report Requirement No. 4). Three major steep slope restoration projects have been completed in these areas, restoring over 500 acres of native habitat and significantly controlling erosion. Designated campgrounds have been improved and expanded; also a new group camping area has been created. These actions will enable management to curtail open camping and reduce the impact of recreational activities in these areas.

Hungry Valley SVRA accommodates approximately 250,000 recreational visitors each year, yet recreation management policies including visitor service functions (i.e., law enforcement, interpretation and signage) as well as various resource programs, provide significant protection for natural and cultural resources. The Hungry Valley SVRA vegetation program not only monitors and restores vegetation throughout the park, but has an active invasive species control program. The invasive species are mapped annually to determine the size of the infestations. We are currently controlling the spread of seven invasive species within a 2,000 acre area.

Hungry Valley SVRA is home to 236 plant species, 113 bird species, 38 mammal species, and 25 herpetile species. Taking into consideration the overall good condition of the habitats found in the park and the suite of species found in these habitats, it is clear that Hungry Valley SVRA sustains a healthy and diverse species composition.

Oceano Dunes SVRA – Natural Resources

Oceano Dunes SVRA lies at the north end of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes complex, an approximately 20,000-acre coastal dune and dune scrub ecosystem that stretches for 18 miles along the central coast. Habitats within the park include coastal foredune, dune scrub, bare sand sheets, dune slack wetlands, coastal estuary, riparian, and freshwater lakes. The SVRA provides habitat for numerous special-status plant and animal species, including valuable nesting habitat for state- and federally-listed endangered California least terns and federally-listed threatened western snowy plover.

Of the 3,600 acres within the SVRA, approximately 2,100 acres are managed as native habitat, some of which is open to non-motorized recreation (hiking, nature viewing, beach activities, and similar non-motorized activities). Oso Flaco Lake and the associated habitats are among the park's most important biological features. The lake is one of the few remaining freshwater dune lakes in central and southern California, providing important waterfowl habitat and supporting a thriving avian community. The lake is also home to the Gambell's watercress and the marsh sandwort, two endangered plant species that are so restricted they occur naturally in just two locations in the world. Numerous other areas discussed below provide regionally important habitat, including the dune system south of Oso Flaco Lake and the vegetated islands located within the motorized recreation and camping area. Approximately 1,500 acres of the SVRA are open to vehicles and camping. There are no trails within the riding and camping area. During the western snowy plover nesting season, March 1 - October 1, approximately 50 acres of non-motorized recreation area north of Oso Flaco Creek and approximately 250 acres of motorized recreation area north of the creek are closed to all public access (see discussion below).

Oceano Dunes SVRA has been working on a Multi Species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to cover all park operations under the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts. This HCP will outline specific management and monitoring activities to address covered species, including western snowy plover, California least tern, California red-legged frog, tidewater goby, and numerous listed plant species. The draft the HCP is expected to be available for public review in 2011.

Staff undertakes substantial monitoring activities throughout Oceano Dunes SVRA to track the health of habitats and wildlife. Particular effort is placed on understanding the status and trends of key state- and federally-listed species like the western snowy plover and California least tern. Staff also conducts surveys for listed plant species, tidewater goby, and steelhead trout. Staff conducts routine HMS surveys that focus on vegetation, shore birds, terrestrial birds, water birds,

small mammals, large mammals, and herpetological resources. (See summary of resource monitoring data compiled and restoration work completed in Report Requirement No. 4.)

Based upon the past five years of managing Oceano Dune's natural resources, observing conditions on the ground, reviewing data, and consulting with other land managers and resource experts, environmental scientists identified two significant issues that threaten the health and viability of habitats and wildlife populations in Oceano Dunes SVRA: invasive exotic vegetation and water quality.

Invasive Exotic Vegetation

The single greatest threat to habitat viability is the spread of invasive exotic vegetation throughout the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex. Two invasive exotic grasses (veldt grass and European beachgrass) are widespread and impact habitats throughout the SVRA. Both species were deliberately introduced into the dunes complex. European beachgrass, for example, has been documented on Oceano Dunes from over a century ago. These two weeds aggressively displace native plant species in foredune, dune scrub, and dune swale habitats. These invasive grasses are widespread throughout the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex. On some adjacent properties, they have completely displaced native dune scrub. Park staff has been working with partner agencies and adjacent public landowners, including the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge, Santa Barbara County, and private landowners, to control large infestations of invasive exotic species throughout the dune complex. The most significant effort to control invasive exotic species is approximately 160 acres in the south Oso Flaco dunes. This large area has been treated annually for two years to control the spread of European beachgrass. Weed control activities include herbicide application, hand removal of target weeds, and prescribed fire. Long-term results of this effort are not yet available.

Water Quality and Quantity

The second greatest threat to habitats and species in the SVRA is a combination of water quality and

quantity issues resulting from actions that occur outside the park. Oceano Dunes SVRA includes Oso Flaco Lake and Arroyo Grande Creek, two significant water bodies associated with the Guadalupe Nipomo Dune Complex. Water quality has been identified as a significant issue in Oso Flaco Lake. The lake drains a small watershed that is dominated by irrigated agriculture.

Monitoring by the Central Coast RWQCB had demonstrated significant issues with bacteria levels, nutrient levels, and pesticides. In 2010, park management posted an advisory at Oso Flaco Lake warning people to not consume fish from the lake due to pesticides found in fish tissue. The lake is listed as an impaired water body by the Central Coast RWQCB and is subject to a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) regulation dealing with a host of water quality impairments.

The park contracted with the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District to monitor water quality in the lake paying particular emphasis on turbidity, sediment loading, and nutrient loading. The multi-year effort complements the water quality monitoring being conducted by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and local agricultural interests in the Oso Flaco watershed. Additionally, Oceano Dunes staff is involved in reviewing and commenting on pending regulations that can help improve water quality.

In Arroyo Grande Creek, water quantity issues have become important. The Department manages a small section of Arroyo Grande Creek, including the estuary, and is becoming more involved in watershed management issues in Arroyo Grande Creek to help bring focus to water supply issues in downstream sections of the creek. There were two instances in 2008 and 2009 when the estuary completely dried up resulting in fish kills, including documented loss of steelhead trout and suspected loss of tidewater goby, two federally-listed species. The Department has been conducting quarterly fisheries surveys of Arroyo Grande Creek and was able to document these fish kills and the population responses of native fish species. Upstream water use and groundwater extraction likely plays a major role in causing the low water conditions in the creek, but formal data on the causes are not available at this time.

While the habitats and wildlife populations face challenges, as discussed above, the overall condition of natural resources remains in a stable state, thanks in part to ongoing management

activities. Two such areas highlight the contribution of the park's management on species and habitats.

Vegetated Islands

Vegetated islands, which are fenced off areas of vegetation, are protected throughout the 1,500 acres open to riding and camping. These vegetated islands require maintenance to maintain the habitat in the face of shifting sand. The effort involves both maintaining the fencing itself, ensuring it has not been undermined or overtopped by shifting sands, and periodically moving the fences to ensure adequate protection of expanding vegetation. Additionally, each year Oceano Dunes SVRA environmental scientists implement a large restoration project designed to stabilize the vegetated islands that could otherwise be overwhelmed by the migration of the active sand dunes. Since 2004, Oceano Dunes SVRA has restored approximately 140 acres of actively shifting sand dune (see discussion in Report Requirement No. 4).

In 2007 and 2008, the California Geological Survey (CGS) prepared a study on options to perpetuate the habitat values (e.g., special-status species habitat, native dune scrub vegetation) of the vegetated islands within Oceano Dunes SVRA. These recommendations will eventually be incorporated into a long-term vegetated islands management plan. Data reported in the CGS study found that between 1985 and 2003, the total acreage of vegetation increased from 142.4 acres to 222.9 acres.

Western Snowy Plover and Least Tern Nesting Program

Each year, from March 1 through September 30, the Department closes off approximately 300 acres of Oceano Dunes SVRA to provide for nesting habitat for western snowy plovers and California least terns. These species nest on open sand habitats and have experienced threats from, among other things, recreational activities and predators. A large complement of environmental scientists and seasonal staff (15 permanent and seasonal staff members) monitors this nesting area on a daily basis to track nesting activity, predator activity, nest success, and chick survival. Chicks are banded to allow tracking of individual birds or broods through to fledge age and beyond. This banding program allows park managers to gain important information breeding populations of plovers and terns that rival other breeding sites on the west coast. This program has gathered important information on breeding activity, factors influencing breeding success, factors influencing chick survival, and changes in adult breeding populations. Thanks to these monitoring and management activities,

staff have been able to document stable and growing trends in breeding bird populations and chick survival.

Oceano Dunes SVRA environmental scientists take an adaptive management approach to the task of managing habitats and species in the park. Management activities are adjusted as new information becomes available. For example, approximately 250 acres of riding and camping area that are closed during the breeding season for plover and tern nesting and chick rearing become degraded as vegetation, topography, and other natural dune features such as beach wrack are disturbed due to OHV recreation during the winter months (October - February). To mitigate the impacts to breeding habitat, park staff implements a number of habitat enhancement activities designed to improve breeding and chick rearing conditions for these species. Activities include the addition of large woody debris to provide for topography and wind protection and spreading wood chips to provide debris patches where the birds can successfully nest. This enhancement program is reviewed and adjusted annually. As a result of this adaptive management approach, park staff have been successful in maintaining a strong breeding population of western snowy plovers and California least terns at Oceano Dunes SVRA (see Report Requirement No. 4).

Ocotillo Wells SVRA and Heber Dunes SVRA – Natural Resources

Ocotillo Wells SVRA is located in the Colorado Desert approximately 90 miles northeast of San Diego in both Imperial and San Diego Counties. The original acquisition of 14,590 acres was purchased in 1975 and 1976, and classified as an SVRA in April 1976. The east acquisition of 28,300 acres was purchased in 1986. Subsequent acquisitions include an additional 10,000 acres to the north and, eventually, 30,000 acres to the east. Currently the District consists of approximately 100,000 acres, including property managed under an MOU with the Bureau of Land Management.

A General Plan/EIR process has recently been initiated that will analyze and address the management setting, since Ocotillo Wells SVRA has grown almost six-fold in size since it was originally established over thirty years ago. The new plan will re-examine existing management protocols for adequacy and appropriateness given the expanded size, as well as current conditions and usage patterns in the park. A new General Plan/EIR is also underway for Heber Dunes SVRA, previously owned by the County until 2007.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA receives over one million visitors a year. There is no controlled

access entrance to the park. Both Ocotillo Wells and Heber Dunes are managed primarily as open riding areas although some areas in Ocotillo Wells are managed as trail areas. Areas of significant environmental or cultural value are closed to all vehicular use. As is common in desert land management areas, camping is allowed on an open basis in Ocotillo Wells SVRA. Heber Dunes is available for day use only, and overnight camping is not permitted. There are five main "developed" camping areas in Ocotillo Wells with shade ramadas, picnic tables, trash bins, and restroom facilities. Water is not available at any of these sites.

Habitats in Ocotillo Wells include mesquite, ironwood, desert willow, smoketree, and Palo Verde woodlands, four-winged saltbush scrub, Creosote-burro-bush scrub, desert buckwheat, Ocotillo, brittle-bush scrub, Galleta grass-indigo scrub, goldenbush, sunflower barrens, and woody aster badland wash benches.

In 2009, Ocotillo Wells began developing a dedicated trail team which has begun inventorying and collecting data on the existing trails throughout Ocotillo Wells and Heber Dunes. In addition, the team recently has completed the inventory and signage of all the official trails on the Ocotillo Wells map. The trail team completed a soil conservation plan in 2010 and will be monitoring and maintaining these trails.

A particularly challenging area of the park is the eastern section. This area is owned by BLM and State Parks and is managed by Ocotillo Wells SVRA. Evidence of volunteer trail creation in this area has increased and in some cases is extensive. In this area the trail team is focusing on completion of trail assessments, installation of trail signage, and performance of trail maintenance and repair.

A complement to the trail team, and a great benefit for the natural and cultural resources programs, has been the development of the GIS group. GIS data layers have been compiled for each resource survey, trail team, maintenance project, interpretive panel and programs, and special event routes. Every sign in the park is contained in the inventory. The system has lidar and imagery to 6" resolution for the entire District.

An added benefit to the GIS technology is in the processing of special event applications. Data provided by the resources team and captured in GIS layers improves the efficiency of special event permitting process. Data captured in the system will help park staff determine if proposed activities and routes of travel avoid sensitive areas, and what restrictions may be necessary to ensure the activity complies with park management guidelines pertaining to sustainable

recreation. Currently the park has five preapproved routes that have been evaluated in the GIS system and reviewed with specialists for feasibility.

Based on habitat monitoring and assessment, in general, natural resources appear to be degrading at both units. The general plan will evaluate this issue and recommend appropriate corrective management strategies. Monitoring of vertebrate elements of both parks has yet to produce analyzable results. The reptile survey has been revised to produce more meaningful data, but the bird and mammal data will require many more years to reach a statistically analyzable value.

The flat-tailed horned lizard, which is a CDFG species of special concern, and is proposed for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act, occurs in various habitats throughout the SVRA. The Ocotillo Wells District has been funding studies since 1991 to determine the species' population, density, hibernation factors, and life history. Much new information has come from these annual studies. In the last three seasons a valuable and useful protocol for flat-tailed horned lizard monitoring has been implemented. While a useful statistical analysis is still several years away, staff environmental scientists are confident this system will provide meaningful data on the relative condition of the population of this species. Development of protocols for the Colorado fringe-toed lizard is pending. The condition of other special-status animal species is largely unknown at this time and will require further investigations.

In June 1997 California State Parks signed a Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Management Strategy Plan that established Ocotillo Wells SVRA as a Research Area for this species. This Strategy Plan is an Arizona – California Conservation Agreement. As signatories of this plan, Ocotillo Wells District funds annual studies to monitor and gain more information about the species.

Tamarisk plants (*Tamarix ramosissima* and *T. aphylla*) are located in many of the washes throughout both Ocotillo Wells SVRA and Heber Dunes SVRA. *Tamarix ramosissima* (saltcedar)

is a frequent and invasive large shrub to small tree in major washes and numerous tributaries in Ocotillo Wells SVRA and along the boundaries of Heber Dunes SVRA.

Since 1988 the Ocotillo Wells District has been reducing the tamarisk population at Ocotillo Wells SVRA through cutting, spraying, and removal. Tamarisk trees have been removed from Tule, Bank, San Felipe, Tarantula, and Alluvial washes. Arroyo Salado has a large tamarisk community. Future plans are to continue with the removal of tamarisk throughout the park. Yearly inspections for re-sprouts are done at past removal locations. At Heber Dunes SVRA, presence of tamarisk species has been recognized as valuable for shade, wind, and dust control reasons; associated management questions are being considered in the Heber Dunes SVRA General Plan/EIR.

Russian thistle (tumbleweed) is found mainly in sandy depressions in the mudhills habitat throughout Ocotillo Wells SVRA and is likely fully naturalized at this point. It does not normally reach the growth stage required for “tumbling” but does spread by seed.

Mustard is found throughout Ocotillo Wells SVRA especially in disturbed areas and appears to spread along vehicle courses, especially from the two major highways but in the interior as well. The Sahara mustard species has accelerated and spread dramatically the last two rainy seasons. The only safe and effective strategy for removal is mechanical using hand tools.

Prairie City SVRA – Natural Resources

Located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada foothills, Prairie City SVRA provides undulating terrain with elevations ranging from 240 - 350 feet. The lands within the SVRA were previously used for a variety of activities such as grazing, gold dredge mining, and aerospace and industrial test sites. Similar activities (aerospace and industrial testing) continue today on adjacent lands. Topography on the property ranges from nearly level in the western sections of the property that are generally characterized by old dredge tailings, to gently sloping and steep hills with scattered remnants of blue oak woodlands in the east. Within the eastern portion of the property, a number of branches of, or tributaries to, Coyote Creek are found. The most common wildlife in the park include black-tailed deer, coyotes, bobcats, striped skunks, California ground squirrels, black-tailed jackrabbits, wild turkeys, and red-tailed hawks. The park is also home to approximately 180 acres of vernal pools and wetlands.

Vegetative communities consist of annual grassland, blue oak woodland, chaparral, and Fremont cottonwood riparian areas, although approximately 60% of the site comprises exposed soil absent vegetation. These barren areas are mostly

due to extensive vehicular use. Certain areas are protected from such high OHV use, such as the stand of blue oaks located in the southeastern portion of the park and the vernal pools located to the north. The oaks are protected from OHV activity by fencing that surrounds large stands of trees, while still allowing a network of trails.

Prairie City SVRA is balancing protection of mature native oaks, permanent water sources, and erodible soils with the maintenance of acreage available for OHV use. The park provides open riding opportunities, trails, tracks, other designated facilities, and special events, all within a limited amount of acreage in which to recreate. This park is one of the smaller SVRAs, and the condensed use presents a challenge to simultaneously improve conditions for both resources and OHV recreation. The protection tools that work the best are often those that incorporate a "recreation" component by combining recreational opportunity with resource protection, such as the hardened crossing described below. Recreation components also include use of natural obstacles and barriers (tree trunks, rocks, and topography), which provide protection of waterways and vegetation by blocking unwanted OHV access in certain areas while also providing clearly delineated obstacles and riding opportunities that take the rider through the sensitive area with little to no impact on resources.

Sediment basins are cleaned out annually or as needed. The park completed a major redesign of the existing sediment basin system in 2009. The basins were redesigned to be shallower and include baffling to slow the water, which allows the suspended sediment particles to drop out of suspension. Each sediment basin has been outfitted with a gravity feed skimmer that drains the top few inches of water, containing the least amount of sediment, and pipes it to the next sediment pond, where the cycle repeats. At the end of the process, the goal is to have improved the sediment retention time and have clean water leaving the property, which will now be monitored annually using a recently acquired turbidity meter. To minimize sources of sediment, several hardened crossings made of large rocks were also installed. These designated crossings allow riding in a perpendicular direction across the creek, but not within the creek bottom.

Rotational hill climbs were started in 2005 and are re-worked and rotated every one to two years. The designated hill climb area is approximately 2.5 acres. A rotational hill climb is intended to provide a fun recreational area without generating excess sediment. When one side of the hill needs to be re-worked, the other side is opened to riders, thus ensuring they always have an area that will challenge them while reducing the amount of soil loss. The area is re-worked with the soils

from the sediment basins, which ensures the park continues to use native soils.

The park supports and sustains two habitats designated as critical by the USFWS: elderberry trees and vernal pools. Annual species surveys have revealed and confirmed the presence of several special-status species, including the federally-listed threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle and vernal pool fairy shrimp, the state-listed threatened Swainson's hawk, and two California species of special concern, the western spadefoot toad and the western pond turtle. Past wildlife surveys have helped establish the locations of these special-status species and their habitats leading to implementation of protection measures, such as fencing, trail re-routes, and seasonal closures.

For example, vernal pool protective measures were completed in 1999, including enclosure fencing and an interpretive panel providing visitors with information on the ecological importance and sensitivity of vernal pools. Additional information is provided in the Report Requirement No. 4.

Elderberry shrubs are found mostly along the main park road and have grown to such great size that they present a serious safety concern in restricting motorists' vision and causing traffic to swerve into the on-coming lane to avoid hitting the low hanging branches, seasonally laden with berries. Park staff are working with USFWS to determine how best to maintain the health of the shrubs while ensuring safe passage along the roadway. In addition, park projects, such as the recent construction of the Environmental Training Center (ETC), incorporated the elderberry shrubs within the design of the trail system and completely avoided removal of any plants.

Future resource protection projects will likely include reducing erosion by continued rotation of hill climbs and use areas, further improving sediment retention systems, opening the newly acquired Yost property to sustainable use, enhancing the grassland habitat, improving control of exotic species, and possibly establishing a visitor carrying capacity.

Federal Natural Resource Management

Changes to OHMVR Program Benefiting Natural and Cultural Resource Management

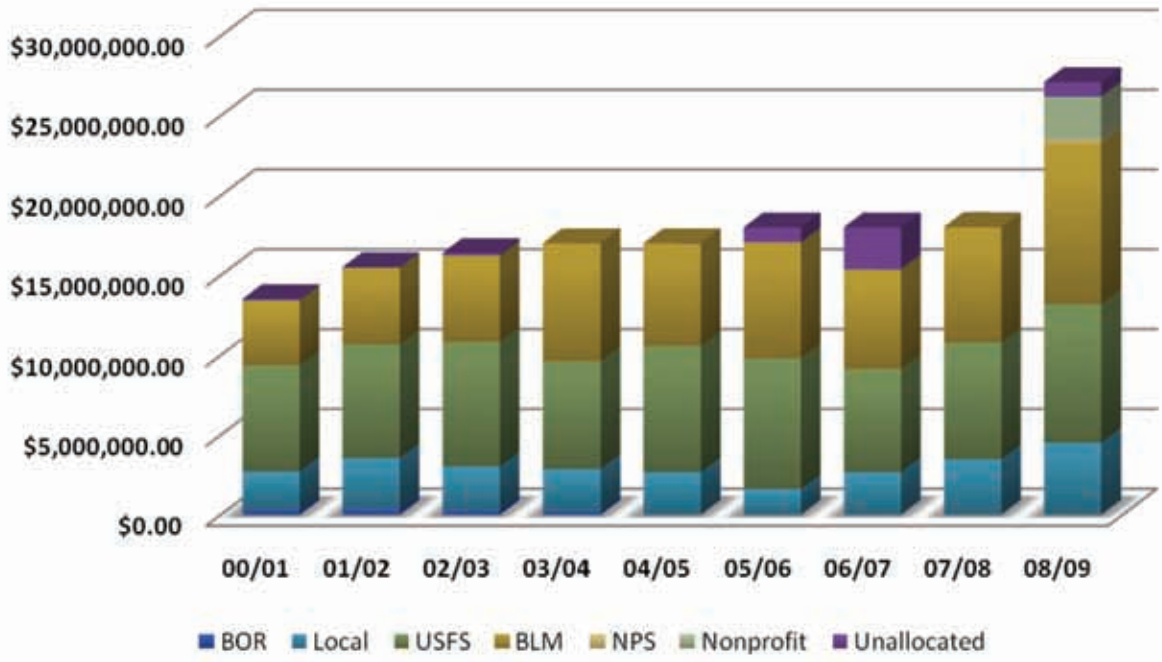
As California's population continues to grow, and the number of people choosing to recreate on OHVs increases accordingly, recent changes to the OHMVR Program have increased the Program's effectiveness in meeting this demand and the legislative mandate for resource protection.

For example, additional funding was made available by the enactment of SB 742 which among many other changes, increased OHV registration fees from $25 to $52 for a two-year registration period which provides a greater level of program support. Since 2004, funding available for the Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program has increased from $17 million to $27.1 million. This increase in funds allows for a far greater level of resource protection by allocating a larger portion of the grant funds specifically for "on-the-ground" work activities such as trail conservation, soil erosion, and habitat monitoring. Additionally, the increase in funds allows for continuous allocation for enforcement to prevent trespass and operation of OHVs in closed areas, and provides for increased restoration efforts on lands damaged by OHV recreation activities.

Changes to Grant Regulations

Over the past four years, numerous changes have been made to the regulations which govern the Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program to promote and encourage agencies that manage lands and provide opportunities for OHV recreation to adopt a holistic approach to land management practices and maintain the natural resources in good condition. Specifically, the evaluation criteria (the scoring mechanism within the application process) was developed to provide existing OHV recreational programs that offer a diverse and complete program an opportunity to receive a greater point total. As an example, questions asked within the general criteria speak to the quality of the land manager's OHV program. The questions allow the applicant to receive maximum points if their program is broad and diverse.

The grant application and scoring process now looks at both project specific information and general information about the applicant's overall OHV recreation program. Applicants with fully developed OHV recreation programs that include education on responsible OHV recreation, sustainable land management practices, and enforcement efforts are given additional consideration and are more likely to be awarded funding. Additionally, applicants are given additional consideration if their programs follow sustainable land management practices. Examples of questions that directly speak to the applicants sustainable land management practices include how a land



	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09
BOR	$354	$396	$300	$240	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Local	$2,352	$3,156	$2,720	$2,629	$2,664	$1,604	$2,663	$3,462	$4,512
USFS	$6,669	$7,118	$7,818	$6,755	$7,908	$8,199	$6,477	$7,322	$8,682
BLM	$4,046	$4,793	$5,396	$7,376	$6,428	$7,243	$6,220	$7,216	$10,052
NPS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	$271
Nonpro.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	$2,662
Unal.	$78	$36	$165	$0	$0	$951	$2,638	$0	$921
Budg.	$13,500	$15,500	$16,400	$17,000	$17,000	$18,000	$18,000	$18,000	$27,100

Dollar amounts are all represented in thousands.

manager incorporates recycled materials in their project, makes substantial use of sustainable technologies in their project, and how a land manager will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources. The more the land manager provides, the higher their score total.

This approach encourages program managers to address all aspects of managing OHV recreation. Funding specific projects has a direct impact on the lands or activities which are funded. Rewarding applicants for applying a holistic approach to their OHV recreation program provides positive indirect impacts to areas and activities not directly funded by the OHV program.

Soil Conservation Standard

In order to provide for and ensure that soil conservation activities are being performed effectively in areas affected by OHV activities, the 1991 Soil Conservation Guidelines and Standards required updating (PRC Section 5090.35 (b)(1)). The OHMVR Division brought together a number of other agencies and specialists to assist in developing a new soil standard, including: The California Department of Conservation, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Through public workshops, input was obtained from representatives of other governmental organizations, OHV recreation groups, OHV industry consultants, and environmental communities.

These efforts produced the "2008 Soil Conservation Standard" (Soil Conservation Standard). The Soil Conservation Standard was incorporated into the 2008 Grants Program regulations. Under the OHV Grants and Cooperative Agreements Regulations, grantees with projects involving ground disturbing activities must develop a Soil Conservation Plan, which details soil monitoring and conservation practices for those projects.

The new Soil Conservation Standard is being implemented in the SVRAs. The OHMVR Division trains its trail crews to meet the requirements of the Soil Conservation Standard. Trail crews are trained to monitor and assess trail conditions using the most up-to-date technology including Geographical Information System (GIS) data bases and Geographical Positioning System (GPS) units. The data staff collects is used to track trends in; use of trails, condition of trails during different times of the year and weather patterns, and anticipate problems before they cause excessive resource damage. The data collected allows trail coordinators to prepare trail maintenance plans to maintain trails that meet the Soil Conservation Standard. Any trail segment that is likely to exceed restorability or is adversely affecting resources is repaired immediately. This proactive approach reduces long-term maintenance costs, and reduces environmental impact, thus helping to achieve the requirement of sustainable OHV recreation.

Addition of Grant and Audit Staff

The increase in grant funding, from $17 million in 2004 to $27.1 million in 2008, has resulted in a greater number of funded projects. Additional grant administrators and auditors were recruited and hired to cover the increased workload associated with this increased funding.

Grant administrators review project proposals and score applications. During this review, environmental staff assists the grant administrators to ensure that Wildlife Habitat Protection Plans, compliance with the Soil Standard and Guidelines, and CEQA are included in projects as required by statute.

Additionally grant administrators conduct performance audits. Performance audits may include, but are not limited to, review of a project to determine progress toward its completion, review of the implementation of HMP and Soil Conservation Plan, or other requirements contained in the project agreement. Performance audits may be accomplished by, but are not limited to, desk reviews, questionnaires and other standards of inquiry, site visits, and other means consistent with OHV Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program Regulations.

Statute requires a minimum of 20% of completed projects be selected for additional review and auditing. Audits consist of both financial reviews to ensure funds were spent and accounted for appropriately, and a performance review to verify all project goals were achieved. If irregularities are discovered, grantees are required to correct any deficiencies or, as a last resort, to refund the OHV Trust Fund. Grantees in subsequent grant cycles receive additional points if 100% of their deliverables in previous grant projects were completed.

Condition of Resources USFS and BLM

USFS Natural Resource Conditions

Introduction

The USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region (California) serves an increasingly urban, ethnically diverse, population. The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The mission of the Pacific Southwest Region Recreation Program is to sustain ecosystems and serve people through innovative recreation leadership and partnerships for facilities, services, and programs.

The 18 National Forests managed in California, covering over 20 million acres, are located in the North Coast, Cascade, and Sierra Nevada ranges, and from Big Sur to the Mexican border in the south Coast range. They are home to such unique scenic areas as Mt. Shasta, Lake Tahoe, Mt. Whitney, and the Big Sur coast as well

as important ecological and prehistoric sites. They provide places for high-quality recreation experiences, adventure, learning, challenge, and quiet contemplation and help generate both a vision and a land ethic that sustain the environment and the people in it. These National Forests account for 25% of National Forest recreation nationwide and about half of the public wildland recreation in the state. National Parks and other federal, state, county and private lands provide the remainder.

Fish, Wildlife and Plants

More than 600 of the 800 species of fish and wildlife in California inhabit the national forests, making the Forest Service the single largest habitat manager in the state. National forests are also home to nearly 4,000 of the 6,500 native plants in California. Recovery programs include protection of critical habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species such as the California condor, California bighorn sheep, and the northern spotted owl.

Water

Almost two-thirds of the freshwater resources in the United States originate from National Forest Lands (Stein 2005). The estimated value of water flowing from National Forest Lands is $7.2 billion per year from both instream and offstream uses (Brown 2004). Surface water run-off in California averages 71 million acre-feet per year. Annual water use is about 37 million acre-feet, of which 80% provides irrigation to crops throughout the state. National forests supply 50% of the water in California and form the watershed of most major aqueducts and more than 2,400 reservoirs throughout the state. Major U.S. cities, like Los Angeles, may seem distant from forests actually rely on water from National Forest Lands.

OHV and OSV Recreation

There are approximately 45,000 miles of roads, 5,500 miles of motorized trails, and 1,500 miles of groomed snowmobile trails on National Forest System Lands within the State available for OHV and over-snow vehicle (OSV) recreation opportunity. There is approximately 5,000,000 acres of National Forest congressionally designated as Wilderness Areas closed to OHV use. In addition, there

are administratively closed areas that prohibit OHV use for the protection of wildlife, soils, water quality, archaeology, rare plants and other resources.

Cooperative Agreements

Dating back to the 1980's, the Pacific Southwest Region, California State Parks OHMVR Division and California State Parks OHMVR Commission have maintained a long-standing relationship through the Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program.

Between 2004 and 2009 the Forest Service received $38.4 million from the OHV Trust for Trail and Facility Maintenance, Conservation, Law Enforcement, Restoration, Planning and Route Inventory and Designation activities. Through participation in this program, the Forest Service has had the ability to provide motor vehicle recreation to millions of Californians and improve the health and diversity of ecosystems.

Northern/Klamath Province: Habitats on the four Northern/Klamath Province forests (Six Rivers, Klamath, Shasta-Trinity, and Mendocino National Forests) are broadly represented by the following tree types: ponderosa pine, eastside mixed conifer, westside mixed conifer, Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, eastside true fir, westside true fir, and hardwoods. In addition, the non-forested areas share the following vegetation and habitat characteristics: western juniper/big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass, riparian woodlands, oak woodlands and savannah, scrub oak mixed chaparral, ceanothus mixed chaparral, montane shrubland, bitterbrush, montane meadows, alpine grassland, perennial grass glades, wet meadows, wetlands, and aquatic systems (lakes, streams, ponds, and springs). Riparian communities occur around streams, lakes, ponds, wet meadows, springs, and wetlands throughout the area. Terrestrial habitats tend to be the driest in the southern and eastern portions of this area.

Sierra Nevada: Habitats on the eleven Sierra Nevada Forests (Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, Tahoe, Humboldt-Toiyabe, El Dorado, Stanislaus, Sierra, Inyo, and Sequoia National Forests and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit) vary greatly across the range. Ecosystems present themselves in the landscape as a patchwork of forests, shrublands, rock outcrops, aquatic features (lakes, rivers, and reservoirs), wet and dry meadows, and other vegetation types that form complex mosaics. In the broadest context, vegetation alliances in the Sierra Nevada are both elevation and latitude sensitive and are distinctly different at the lower elevations between the east and west sides of the Sierra Nevada crest. Yellow pine (ponderosa and Jeffery pines), lodgepole-red fir, and subalpine forests are represented on both sides of the divide, and on most national forests south of the Modoc, although the yellow pine belts on the east and west slope

are distinctly different. Alpine vegetation alliances are found where elevations exceed 11,000 to 12,000 feet. On the west side, the lower elevation alliances include chaparral and foothill woodlands (including mixed evergreen forests) mixed with valley grasslands at the lowest points. On the east side, the lowest elevation is occupied by sagebrush scrub with pinyon-juniper woodlands found between the sagebrush and yellow pines. There are virtually no oak woodlands on the east side. Streams and associated riparian vegetation occur throughout the area, and wet meadows occur primarily on the eastern slope.

Southern California: The complex interaction of climate, geology, and topography has created an unusually rich array of vegetation types on the four Southern California national forests (Los Padres, Angeles, San Bernardino, and Cleveland National Forests) that range from dry desert scrub to humid coastal redwood forests. Specific habitats of importance include alpine/subalpine, chaparral, coastal sage scrub, desert mountain, desert scrub, Gabbro outcrops, lakes and reservoirs, limestone/carbonate outcrops, lower montane forest, montane conifer forest, montane meadows, Monterey coastal, oak woodland/savanna/grassland, pebble plain, riparian, serpentine outcrops, and vernal pools.

BLM Natural Resource Conditions

To ensure natural resources are maintained in good condition, the BLM is actively managing OHV recreation. Of particular concern is maintaining and protecting populations of sensitive desert reptiles. The Division has awarded the BLM a grant to study the effectiveness of current management practices allowing OHV activities in some of the desert washes within the Desert Wildlife Management Area of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACEC) in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

The BLM is also ensuring natural resources are maintained in good condition by controlling invasive exotic plants. The BLM Barstow and Hollister Field Offices have been especially active in removing noxious invasive weeds. In Afton Canyon ACEC, a popular recreation destination east of Barstow, BLM staff has been vigilant in its efforts to control the spread of tamarisk to allow and promote the growth of native willows and mesquite in the canyon riparian woodland. In southern San Benito County, the BLM has been undertaking prescribed burns to promote growth of rare native plants and halt the spread of yellow starthistle into OHV recreation areas.

Keeping trails repaired and in good condition by reducing soil erosion, and developing staff expertise for rapid response to erosion problems caused in connection with OHV trails, is a major goal for BLM OHV recreation programs. The BLM is partnering with the Division and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service to train BLM staff in new improved methods in erosion control for OHV and in monitoring and diagnosing potential erosion problems in advance,

allowing staff to act early to avoid erosion. Implementation and training in the Soil Conservation Standard is one example of how this partnering is being accomplished.

Habitat Management Program

USFS and BLM grantees with projects involving ground disturbing activities must implement a Wildlife Habitat Protection Program (WHPP), known as a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) under the Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program. The HMP requires grantees to identify special-status plant and animal species that could be at risk from OHV recreation and monitor for potential impacts to those species. As an adaptive management plan, the HMP includes management objectives and actions to address the risk, success criteria to gauge the effectiveness of each management action, and "triggers" for management change. Each grant application cycle, grantees report on the results of the previous year's HMP, including any management actions taken based on monitoring results. The Division developed the WHPP/HMP over several years of working with BLM and USFS environmental staff. The forms, which were largely finalized in 2005, are incorporated into the Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program Regulations.

Summary of USFS and BLM HMP monitoring, 2004-2009

Grants Cycle		Monitoring Plan		Results	
	Agency	Species Considered	Species Monitored	Objectives Met	Corrective Actions Recommended
	BLM				
	2004-2005	192	122	All but 1	1
	2005-2006	219	74	All but 2	1
	2006-2007	197	87	All but 5	5
	2007-2008	254	82	All but 3	3
	2008-2009	206	77	Yes, all objectives met	Not needed
	USFS				
	2004-2005	955	365	All but 14	15
	2005-2006	1147	528	All but 8	8
	2006-2007	1148	511	All but 10	12
	2007-2008	1135	530	All but 22	22
	2008-2009	888	424	All but 10	10

In addition projects with ground disturbing activities must implement activities outlined in the 2008 Soil Conservation Standard in projects supported by grant funding. The Soil Conservation Standard was incorporated into the regulations governing the 2008-2009 grant cycle.

Cultural Resources

SVRA Cultural Resource Management Overview

The lands owned and managed by the Division contain valuable cultural resources that provide insight into California's prehistory and history. A wide range of state laws and regulations govern cultural resource protection and preservation of resources within the SVRAs (including archeological and historical) for current and future generations.

Status, Conditions, Monitoring, and Resolution of Conflicts

As a state agency, the OHMVR Division complies with both state and federal laws[10] and regulations concerning the treatment of cultural resources significant in American architecture, engineering, sciences, economics, agriculture, education, society, politics, military, and culture. "Cultural resources" is the common term used to describe and encompass a variety of landscapes, artifacts, features, buildings, structures, and sites among a multitude of other resources connected to California's prehistoric and/or historic past.

Since 2000 the OHMVR Division has made a commitment to the development, enhancement, and awareness of its Cultural Resources Program. The Division hired its first State Archaeologist in 2000, and then augmented its Program with the hiring of additional archaeologists between 2007-2010 at the OHMVR Division and Ocotillo Wells SVRA. The Division's archaeologists have been very successful in developing cultural resources plans and strategies that include proactive measures to ensure the SVRA's cultural resources are inventoried, evaluated, monitored, and protected. To enhance their efforts, Division archaeologists actively participate in Department-wide cultural training, working in compliance with state mandates, developing an efficient Cultural Resource Program that effectively manages, protects, and preserves cultural resources for many generations to come.

Cultural Resource Inventories and Reports

Conducting a cultural resource inventory of its SVRAs is the only way to determine the resources managed by the OHMVR Division. Additionally, PRC Section 5024.1(g) states that any inventory over five years of age should be re-surveyed. An inventory should also take place when new land is acquired.

Table 1. Previous Available Cultural Resource Inventories (includes before 2004)

SVRA	Previously Inventoried	Current Date	Authors
Carnegie SVRA	1980	2010	Kelly, McAleer, and Hines(1980); ASC: Newland et al.
Clay Pit SVRA		2009	Perez and Long
Heber Dunes SVRA	Acquired in 2007	2009	EDAW AECOM: Jordan and Bowden-Renna
Hollister Hills SVRA	1979	2010	Hines and Porter(1979); Long (2010)
Hungry Valley SVRA	1980	2012*	Kelly, Hines and Luberski (1980); Perez and Long (2012*)
Oceano Dunes SVRA	2005	2010	Hines and Gruver (2005); Perez (2010)
Ocotillo Wells SVRA	2002	2012*	Hines et. al (2002); Perez and Long (2012*)
Prairie City SVRA	1989	2010	Derr (1989); Perez and Long (2010)

* Anticipated completion date

Maintaining current and accurate Cultural Resource Inventory Reports for each SVRA is essential to properly manage and protect park resources. Having an up-to-date cultural resource inventory of each SVRA allows for the archaeologist to determine which areas of the park contain, or may contain resources. This information is the foundation for decision making related to: the level of protection or mitigation requirements when considering a Division project; opportunities for the interpretation of cultural resources; and, which resources require annual monitoring for adequate preservation and management.

Maintaining current Cultural Resource Inventory Reports for each SVRA fulfills the following:

- Provides a current list of all known cultural resources managed by the OHMVR Division.
- Provides protection and preservation measures of cultural resources owned and managed by the OHMVR Division.
- Aids in future planning and development projects proposed for the SVRA which are contingent on the cultural resource findings, along with protection and preservation measures listed in the report.
- Expedites project review processes by providing up-to-date knowledge of the location of cultural resources, along with protection and preservation measures.
- Complies with the OHMVR Division's legal requirements.

Conducting cultural resource inventories require significant research and preparation prior to conducting field work, field reviews, and post field review. This includes but is not limited to the following measures.

Pre-field Research

Pre-field research serves to examine all archaeological, ethnographical, and historical studies associated with the project area and surrounding vicinity, and fulfills the following:

- Identifies previously recorded cultural resources within the park.
- Provides background information for identifying new resources during fieldwork.
- Provides background information that will be synthesized into the final Cultural Resources Inventory Report.
- Determines if additional research needs to be conducted.

Additional pre-field tasks include:

- Examination of current site records and literature.
- Consultation with local Native California tribes.
- Contact with local historical societies.
- Creation of project GIS maps.

Field Survey

Upon completion of the pre-field preparation and research, a team of archaeologists conducts an on-the-ground pedestrian field survey of the SVRA. During this field survey, resources are recorded and the cultural resources GIS database for the SVRA is updated.

Preparation of a Cultural Resources Inventory Report

A Cultural Resources Inventory Report is comprised using the information gathered from the pre-field research, as well as the results of the fieldwork, all site records, detailed maps, and preliminary evaluations of the cultural resources eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) or the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). If historic-era buildings, structures, objects and/or landscapes are present at an SVRA, a qualified State Historian must update the site record and conduct an evaluation of eligibility for the Registers, which is also included in the final report. The final Cultural Resource Inventory Report is submitted to the OHMVR Division, the SVRA District Superintendent, the local California Historical Resource Information System Center, and the Archaeology, History & Museums Division.

Table 2 illustrates the type and number of resources located at the SVRAs. These resources are actively protected and studied by archaeologists from the OHMVR Division, as well as other Divisions within California State Parks, and universities throughout the state.[10]

Table 2. Known Cultural Resources Owned or Managed by OHMVR

SVRA	Archaeological Sites	Historic Structures (Standing)	Cultural Preserves*
Carnegie SVRA	6	7	0
Clay Pit SVRA	1	0	0
Heber Dunes SVRA	1	0	0
Hollister Hills SVRA	67	7	0
Hungry Valley SVRA	99	41	3
Oceano Dunes SVRA	70	0	0
Ocotillo Wells SVRA	1270	1	1
Prairie City SVRA	7	2	0
OHMVR Division Totals	**1521**	**58**	**4**

* Note: PRC 5090.43 states: After January 1, 1988, no new cultural or natural preserves or state wildernesses shall be established with SVRAs. To protect natural and cultural values, sensitive areas within SVRAs may be designated by the Division if the OHMVR Commission holds a public hearing and makes a recommendation therefore. These sensitive areas shall be managed by the Division in accordance with PRC Sections 5019.71 and 5019.74 which define the purpose and management of natural and cultural preserves.

Evaluating the Significance of Cultural Resources

PRC Section 5024 mandates that all state agencies that manage cultural resources must evaluate the significance of those resources. Following the completion of a cultural resources inventory, Division archaeologists evaluate the significance of the resources to determine the level of monitoring required.

In order for a cultural resource to be considered significant, it must meet all three of the following:

- ✓ It must meet one of the criteria list for significance with regard to either the California Register or the National Register of Historic Places.
- ✓ It must be 50 years old, and
- ✓ It must have integrity

Generally, a resource shall be considered significant if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register (PRC Section 5024.1, and, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Section 4852) including the following:

- Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California may be considered to be a historical resource, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record, and
- Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
- Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
- Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
- Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The criteria for evaluation of cultural resources for significance under the National Register is very similar to those for the California Register and are found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 60:

- The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:
  - That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
  - That are associated with the lives of significant persons in or [sic] past; or
  - That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
  - That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

A significant cultural resource must meet at least one of the criteria above for either the California or National Register, and be at least 50 years old, and must possess integrity. Integrity is defined as "the ability of a property to convey its significance" (National Park Service 2002). The cultural resource must convey a sense of time and place and must possess at least three of the seven aspects of integrity to do this.

The seven aspects of integrity are:

- ✓ setting,
- ✓ location,
- ✓ materials,
- ✓ design,
- ✓ workmanship,
- ✓ feeling, and
- ✓ association.

Monitoring of Cultural Resources

Consistent cultural resource monitoring of those resources determined to be significant is important due to the fragile, non-renewable, and irreplaceable nature of the park's resources. Once damaged, their unique value to California's and/or our nation's heritage is lost forever.

Division archaeologists monitor significant resources using Archaeological Site Condition Assessment Reports (ASCAR). Damage to cultural resources occurs from intentional destruction (i.e. construction projects, prescribed burns, looters) and inadvertently caused deterioration (i.e. trail down cutting, erosion, vehicle traffic, and natural causes). ASCARs are completed annually to record impacts to sites.

The frequency of ASCAR updates depends on the amount of destructive influences in close proximity to the resources. Possible destructive influences may be determined during the initial inventory or subsequent monitoring. For example, if a site is near a campground or popular trail, Archaeologists will monitor the site more frequently to ensure site integrity. If the site is threatened, a recovery plan is implemented which may include reroute of a trail, mitigation efforts at the site, or excavation of the site. Artifacts from an excavation may be given to the park for interpretation and visitor center displays or may be stored at the State Archaeological Collections and Research Facility in Sacramento (SACRF).

After an SVRA has been inventoried, archaeologists revisit those sites where a higher level of impact is possible. Archaeologists and/or monitors conduct a surface survey, determine site boundaries, document the site's condition, and photograph the site. Site details, including boundaries, artifacts, and damage are recorded using GPS equipment.

Stabilization of cultural resources is required when condition monitoring analysis concludes the site may be deteriorating or be potentially lost as a result of natural or man-made processes. Forms of stabilization can include, but are not limited to the following: capping, planting vegetation to stabilize the site from erosion, or fencing the site boundary to deter access. In some cases resources cannot be stabilized, in which case an excavation of the impacted area is required to recover a sufficient amount of the resource's surface and subsurface archaeological data.

In addition to the archaeologists' ongoing monitoring efforts, the Division also facilitates resource monitoring programs through relationships with additional Divisions within California State Parks, various California universities, professional agencies, stakeholders, OHV groups, communities of interest, and individual members of the public to assist in monitoring efforts. Initiating cooperative relationships with a range of outside agencies and the public helps the OHMVR Division to better manage and preserve its cultural resources through site stewardship.

The California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program

The California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program (CASSP) is an example of an OHMVR Division cultural resource monitoring program managed through site stewards. The CASSP is utilized by a multitude of state agencies to involve members of the public in an effort to better monitor, preserve, and manage archaeological sites. CASSP is composed of volunteers who share a common goal and desire to protect California's rich cultural heritage. The objective of this program is to recruit professional archaeologists and trained volunteers as stewards to monitor sites throughout the state. The application of CASSP at the Division helps to reinforce its ongoing effort to preserve prehistoric and historic cultural resources.

To initiate a CASSP program at one of the SVRAs, a CASSP representative works with a Division archaeologist to identify the stewardship needs and goals of the park, including identifying which archaeological sites would most benefit from ongoing monitoring. Once the goals and needs are established, a CASSP volunteer workshop is held and members of the public participate in a two-day workshop that includes one, eight hour day in a classroom

setting and one, in-field training day with a Division archaeologist at the SVRA. Volunteers receive training in the following areas; CASSP goals, cultural prehistory and history pertaining to the SVRA, legal requirements, ethical and confidential[11] requirements related to the treatment of archaeological resources, safety in the field, and basic knowledge of archaeological field surveying methods. The benefits of utilizing CASSP to monitor resources in the SVRAs include:

- Efficient management and preservation of cultural resources through regular monitoring of site conditions.
- Active preservation of cultural resources through early identification of site impact.
- Early identification of sites that require immediate preservation management, such as fencing for better protection.
- A complete annual inventory of each monitoring visit, including documentation of changes to site condition, and mitigations developed for better site preservation to be included in the annual report to the State Historic Preservation Office.
- Public outreach and educational opportunities for various user groups, stake holders, and members of the public to learn about archaeology, including its management, and preservation.

The success of the CASSP at an SVRA is contingent upon the commitment, involvement, and oversight of park staff and the Division archaeologists. CASSP volunteers require training and guidance to adequately monitor cultural resources. In 2009, Carnegie and Ocotillo Wells SVRAs hosted CASSP training. Training is proposed for Hollister Hills in 2011, with Oceano Dunes and Hungry Valley SVRAs proposed for 2011 and 2012.

Project Review and On-the-Ground Monitoring of Cultural Resources

Division archaeologists work closely with the staff at the SVRAs to protect, preserve, and promote the parks archeological and historic resources while working to develop projects and facilities that will maintain the integrity of the area and enhance the visitors experience and enjoyment of the park.

Prior to any project/facility construction, Division archaeologists review the SVRAs project proposal to assess conditions and potential impacts, and to provide mitigations to address those resource impacts. When necessary archaeological monitors are present for all work to ensure avoidance of significant impacts to resources within the project area.

Current Condition of Cultural Resources in the SVRAs

The following discussions will provide an overview of the condition of the cultural resources, resolution of conflicts to resources, and a summary of resource monitoring at each SVRA.

Carnegie SVRA – Cultural Resources

Current Condition of Cultural Resources. Areas within Carnegie SVRA contain resources related to important events in California's prehistory. The SVRA lies in the boundary area between two ethnographic Native American groups, the Northern Valley Yokuts and the Ohlone. Two significant prehistoric sites recorded within Corral Hollow Creek include a seasonal camp site and a rock art site, both of which have been excavated by qualified state archaeologists and archaeologists from San Francisco State University. Although there are no major village sites in the SVRA, data collected from the two excavated sites suggests the area was an important seasonal food gathering and hunting area where trading of important goods took place along with religious ceremonies.

Large areas of Carnegie SVRA contain archaeological evidence of an extensive historic mining landscape, representing the Division's best known example of a cultural landscape. A series of coal, clay, and sand mining operations occurred in the area beginning in 1855 to 1920, with the most successful and significant operation being the Treadwell brothers' Alameda and San Joaquin Coal Mining Company, popularly known as the Tesla Coal Mine. The Tesla Coal Mine, operated from 1895 to 1920, represents one of California's first commercial coal mining operations. The variety of operations that took place during this time included clay, coal, and sand mines (Pacific Window Glass Company), a manganese mine, and an industrial brick and pottery operation (Carnegie Brick and Pottery Works) that included, lime kilns, gravel quarries, town sites, and transportation networks (Alameda and San Joaquin Railroad Company). Today, a large mound of mining refuse, mining adits, and a series of house pits from the town of Tesla are all that remain of the Tesla Coal Mine.

Efforts to conduct a complete cultural resource inventory of Carnegie SVRA began in the spring of 2006 through a contract with the Anthropological Studies Center (ASC) at Sonoma State University. It is estimated the ASC will produce a final Cultural Resources Inventory Report late 2010. This inventory will include recording a number of sites, features, and artifacts connected to an

extensive historic mining landscape, as well as sites representative of prehistoric inter-tribal trade corridors.

Summary of Resource Monitoring. A partnership with the CASSP was initiated in 2003 with its first CASSP Volunteer Workshop. Due to staffing issues, the program did not flourish. However, the Division was committed to reestablishing the program and in the winter of 2009, a permanent CASSP program was established. Currently, there are 11 CASSP volunteers bi-annually monitoring resources within Carnegie SVRA.

Resolution of Conflict to Resources. Several sites throughout the SVRA are either fenced or demarked with resource protection signs. Many of the prehistoric sites are fenced, as are portions of the Brickworks and Pottery Plant. One example is a buried historic brick feature near the Alameda Mine. This feature is located in a trail and is capped with soil. A CASSP volunteer monitors this site. When/if the brick feature is exposed, the volunteer informs the Division archaeologists who in turn informs park maintenance staff to reapply the cap. This has proven to be a successful mitigation that protects the resource and allows continuation of recreational activity.

On the Tesla property, where currently no OHV use is allowed, some sites have been vandalized by pot hunters. To address these impacts to the resources, the mining portals are closed and thus protected from vandals. However, a number of the archaeological resources in Tesla are still impacted. The SVRA has increased ranger patrols and monitoring of the site by park personnel. Public access, education, and CASSP volunteers may help deter those who currently trespass on the property. Archaeologists will be involved in future project planning and design to either completely eliminate or mitigate adverse affects to these valuable resources.

In the fall of 2008, the OHMVR Division, the California Department of Conservation, and the U.S Office of Surface Mining, worked together to close many of the historic mine adits because of their potential threat to public health and safety. By using the data collected by the ASC during their cultural resources inventory, the Division, along with the additional agencies, identified the most desired method of mine closure to achieve success and allow for public safety, wildlife movement, and minimal impact to the historic mining resources.

Clay Pit SVRA – Cultural Resources

Current Condition of Cultural Resources. Present-day Clay Pit SVRA was excavated as an impervious borrow area to construct the Oroville Dam in 1964. The Oroville Dam itself is located on the Feather River approximately five miles northeast of the city of Oroville. Any cultural resources that may have existed in the interior of Clay Pit SVRA prior to the 1964 excavation have since been destroyed. Clay Pit SVRA's history is tied to the statewide effort to create reservoirs during the State Water Project. Additionally, the park contains dredge tailings dating to the gold rush era. This park has the potential to yield information about early California gold dredging activities and the State Water Project.

When the OHMVR Division archaeologists conducted a resources survey of Clay Pit SVRA in October 2008, they found several items related to these events. The field survey also identified one previously undocumented historic site, and no prehistoric sites. There are no previously recorded prehistoric archaeological sites in the vicinity of Clay Pit SVRA. The 1964 landscape disturbance from the construction of the Lake Oroville Dam has altered the natural surface, thereby limiting the probability of relocating remnants associated with prehistoric cultures that existed in the project area.

Summary of Resource Monitoring and Resolution of Conflict to Resource. Cultural resources monitoring plays an important role in documenting the Division's ongoing efforts to ensure, or verify, the avoidance of effects on known cultural resources within the SVRA. In regards to Clay Pit SVRA, the data collected from the cultural resource inventory[13] determined the park does not contain resources that would require monitoring at this time; hence, there is no known record of resolution of conflict to resources at Clay Pit SVRA.

Heber Dunes SVRA – Cultural Resources

Current Condition of Cultural Resources. Heber Dunes SVRA is located in the Colorado Desert south and west of the Chocolate Mountains, in the Imperial Valley of the Salton Trough. The prehistory of Heber Dunes SVRA is generally divided into three periods of occupation extending as far back as 12,000 years before present. The ethnographic group of this park is within the traditional territory of the Kamia who spoke a Yuman language, which is part of the Hokan language family, and whose territory extended across the Imperial Valley down into north-eastern Baja California.

Spanish expeditions of the Imperial Valley began as early as 1769. The archaeology of this time period is reflected with religious and military settlements. Cattle grazing and ranching was established during the Mexican period (1821-1848). Cattle ranching dominated the agricultural activities of this area until the Gold Rush of 1848. As the American immigration to the west began, a homestead system was established bringing in transportation routes, including mail and stage routes, and irrigation districts that delivered water to the ranches.

Ocotillo Wells District archaeologists contracted with AECOM to conduct an inventory and prepare a Cultural Resource Inventory Report for Heber Dunes SVRA in preparation for the General Plan. This report was finalized in December 2009. Currently there are no recorded prehistoric sites or resources within Heber Dunes SVRA. Only one cultural resource has been previously recorded within one mile of the park. This is a segment of the South Alamo Canal which was originally constructed in 1908 and has since undergone maintenance. AECOM's 2009 survey identified one historic site consisting of early 20th century historic artifacts.

Summary of Resource Monitoring. Cultural resources monitoring plays an important role in documenting the Division's ongoing efforts to ensure, or verify, the avoidance of effects on known cultural resources within the SVRA. The current cultural resources inventory completed by AECOM provides a good understanding of the history and resources of the area. Because there is only one reported site, not defined as significant, monitoring of the site can easily be accomplished by Ocotillo Wells' staff as applicable.

Resolution of Conflict to Resources. The one reported site within the park is unaffiliated with any historic building or structure and not defined as significant. Because there is only one site, Ocotillo Wells District archaeologists do not anticipate any conflicts to arise or need to be resolved regarding this resource.

Hollister Hills SVRA – Cultural Resources

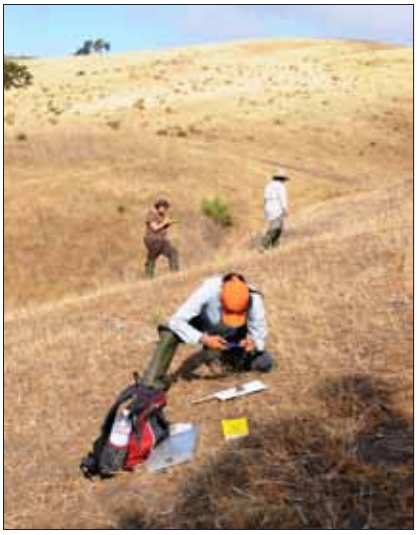
Current Condition of Cultural Resources. Hollister Hills SVRA occupies an area with an intricate and long history. Several prehistoric village sites within the SVRA suggest long term use by the Ohlone tribe. The SVRA is located within what was two Mexican land grants. The historic land grant names are still used throughout San Benito County. The park entrance is located off Cienega Road, which means swamp in Spanish, and is a remnant name from the Cienega del Gabilan land grant.

During the early 1900s, ranching, farming, and mining were the main industries of San Benito County, and all these activities were performed in areas within the present-day SVRA. Certain techniques developed within the old ranch lands of Hollister Hills SVRA helped to revolutionize the agiculture industry during the Great Depression. Howard Harris balanced his passion for agriculture with his desire to provide a park open to OHV recreation. Over time, the primary use of the land was for OHV recreation. The last phase of history at Hollister Hills SVRA included previous land owner Howard Harris' Motorcycle Playground in the early 1970s.

A Cultural Resource Inventory Report for Hollister Hills SVRA was completed in 2010, and provides a rich collection of prehistoric and historic resources. In particular, there are large village sites with intact midden deposits (data), groundstone, and lithics. The artifacts and depth of the prehistoric deposits at these sites have the potential to yield much needed data about the prehistory of San Benito County. Ironically, because San Benito County has not had significant development (large housing developments, shopping malls, etc.) extensive archeological review has not occurred thus making the cultural resources at Hollister Hills a valuable window to the past.

The Vineyard Schoolhouse, built in 1891, is an excellent example of an historic building which has historical significance. Located at the entrance to the Upper Ranch, it is in good condition and is used for classes and special events.

Summary of Resource Monitoring. Cultural resources monitoring documents the Division's ongoing efforts to ensure, or verify, the avoidance of effects on



known cultural resources. Hollister Hills SVRA's resources are actively protected and studied by the Division's archaeologists. Archaeologists monitor the park's resources on an ongoing basis, annually and as necessary. Based on the data potential of many of the prehistoric and historic resources in the park, Hollister Hills SVRA will greatly benefit from CASSP. Division archaeologists anticipate developing a site stewardship monitoring program in 2011.

Resolution of Conflict to Resources. Hollister Hills SVRA contains many resources related to many aspects of its previous prehistoric and historic land use. Completion of the Cultural Resource Inventory Report in 2010 now provides staff with a database of significant resources, many of which were previously unknown and not always obvious to a non-cultural resource professional.

One notable case of resource conflict resolution occurred in early August 2008 following a CalFire conservation crew's removal of a large majority of the historic Harris Walnut Orchard's canopy. To resolve further impact to this resource, a condition assessment survey took place in August 2008 to determine the extent of damage and eligibility of the orchard to the National Register. Division archeologists evaluated the site and determined the prehistoric component needs to be excavated. While further research is necessary to determine its level of integrity, the Walnut Orchard is eligible for the National Register due to its association with the booming walnut cultivation period experienced throughout the state prior to World War II. Presently, Division archaeologists, the District Superintendent, as well as the park's maintenance staff, have been working together to assess the current condition of the orchard and discuss its potential as a future interpretative/ picnic visitor area for the park.

Hungry Valley SVRA – Cultural Resources

Current Condition of Cultural Resources. Several Native American and homestead sites occur within Hungry Valley SVRA which includes three cultural preserves, the highest level of protection that can be afforded to cultural resources within an SVRA. Cultural resources included in cultural preserves generally represent the best examples of important information about our heritage and history. The cultural preserves within Hungry Valley SVRA protect important prehistoric archaeological sites associated with the Alliklik/Tataviam tribe. This is an ethnographic group whose history is not well known due to poor recordation by ethnographers during the early 1900s. The little information known about this tribe has been determined from archaeological sites located in the nearby Antelope Valley, although more research is needed to clarify the ways of the ancient people that inhabited Hungry Valley SVRA. The archaeological sites within the park have a high potential for yielding information to fill in gaps in our knowledge of California prehistory.

Hungry Valley SVRA also contains many early homesteads and has a high potential for contributing information about the history of early settlement patterns and homesteaders in California. Historic research is currently taking place by the OHMVR Division cultural staff regarding Hungry Valley SVRA.

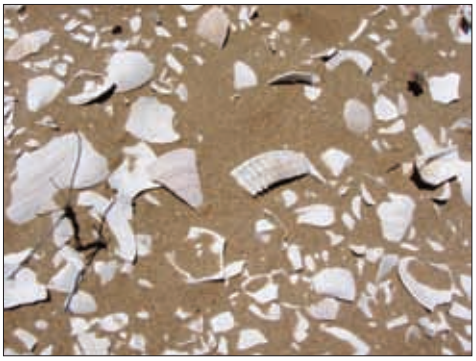
Efforts to update the site record and relocate and re-record previously recorded resources at Hungry Valley began between 2000 and 2005, but due to the complexity and acreage of the park, the resource inventory was never completed. That being said, pre-field research has started. Division archaeologists intend to complete a Cultural Resources Inventory Report for Hungry Valley SVRA by the end 2012.

Summary of Resource Monitoring. Cultural resources monitoring plays an important role in documenting the Division's ongoing efforts to ensure, or verify, the avoidance of effects on known cultural resources in the park. Division archaeologists are in the initial stages of preparing Hungry Valley's Cultural Resources Inventory Report which will provide important information to facilitate staff monitoring efforts. In the meantime, archaeologists and Hungry Valley SVRA environmental scientists continue to monitor known sites and prepare ASCARs as necessary to protect and monitor the condition of the park's resources.

Resolution of Conflict to Resources. Environmental scientists have been successful in preventing conflict to cultural resources. Currently, some sensitive cultural areas, such as Native American and historic homestead sites, have been fenced off for their protection, while others are difficult to identify and have been left undisturbed by park visitors. Cultural interpretive programs are conducted by District interpretive staff for numerous groups including: schools, Scouts, the California Police Athletic League and the Sierra Club. Division archaeologists plan to establish a CASSP at the park following the completion of a cultural resource inventory, likely in 2012.

Oceano Dunes SVRA – Cultural Resources

Current Condition of Cultural Resources. Oceano Dunes SVRA is located within San Luis Obispo County. Archaeological excavations in the area surrounding the park have uncovered data dating back at least 11,000 years ago, allowing archaeologists to establish the timeframe this area was occupied by Northern Chumash, one of the oldest tribes in California. The prehistoric archaeology of Oceano Dunes SVRA ranges from sparse shell scatters and temporary camps to burials and large shell midden sites. Individually, as well as collectively, these sites have the potential to provide Division archaeologists information about the subsistence economy, material culture, and settlement organization of the prehistoric Northern Chumash culture based on artifacts, features, soil, and sites, among other resources.



Oceano Dunes SVRA also contains historic-era resources (e.g., lumber, trash, metal art work, and ruins of what use to be wooden shelters) related to camps built by a loose knit band of hobos, mystics, writers, and escapees from society who sought shelter in the sand dunes following the Spanish American War. These people are popularly known as “the Dunites.”

A large majority of the park’s extensive number of recorded archaeological sites were originally identified during several cultural resource inventories of the area beginning in 1958. The two most recent cultural resource inventory studies of the SVRA were conducted by Laurie et al. (2003) and Hines et al. (2005). The survey objectives were to relocate and update sites in areas of Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes SVRA previously identified in the late 1950s. A more recent Cultural Resources Inventory Report for Oceano Dunes SVRA was completed by Division archaeologists in late 2010.

Summary of Resource Monitoring. Cultural resources monitoring plays an important role in documenting the Division’s ongoing efforts to ensure, or verify, the avoidance of effects on known cultural resources at Oceano Dunes SVRA. The park’s resources are actively protected and studied by Division archaeologists. Significant sites are monitored annually or as necessary. ASCARs are prepared on a project basis to monitor the condition of the resources. Division archaeologists anticipate initiating CASSP at the park in the fall of 2011.

Resolution of Conflict to Resources. A large majority of known cultural resources in the park are either fenced to prevent trespass or have been capped to reduce damage from public activities. Division archaeologists have an active consulting relationship with Northern Chumash Tribal Representatives to adequately determine the best methods in resolving potential conflict to cultural resources. The park's environmental scientists also regularly consult and work with Division archaeologists as well as Northern Chumash Tribal representatives to help avoid or mitigate adverse affects to known resources.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA – Cultural Resources

Current Condition of Cultural Resources. Ocotillo Wells SVRA is located where four traditional ethnographic territories converge—the Kamia, Diegueno, Cahuilla, and Yuman groups—all of whom developed special adaptations to the arid desert environment. The prehistoric life ways that once occurred in the present-day park revolved around the fluctuation of the now extinct Lake Cahuilla. The prehistory of this area can be divided into four chronological periods extending as far back as 12,000 years. The park preserves the largest collection and variety of resources within the Division ranging from flake scatters and temporary camps to rock rings, food processing sites, and large village sites. Most significantly, this is the only area in California where pottery was used in prehistoric times.

Areas within Ocotillo Wells SVRA contain places where California's earliest recorded history began in 1769. Juan Bautista de Anza led his expedition through the area. Today, portions of the trail still exist in the park. Countless other Spanish expeditions traveled through the area as late as 1796. The area was relatively isolated and little used except by the occasional wagon party until approximately 1853 when government surveying parties entered the area, and in 1866 the Southern Pacific Railroad opened up the land for commerce and settlement. Prospectors began searching for oil in 1851, but very little oil was ever produced. During the 1930s, agriculture in

the Imperial Valley flourished as water control systems were implemented on the Colorado River. Portions of the Worth Toner homestead, a small ranch with water, alfalfa, and turkeys, established around 1950, still exists within the park. During World War II, large portions of the desert were used for military training. Many of these military sites also exist within the park today. Alicia Perez, Associate State Archaeologist for the OHMVR Division, inventoried these military resources as part of her Master's thesis completed in 2009.

A cultural resources inventory was conducted and a report completed for a portion of Ocotillo Wells SVRA in mid-2010. This survey included areas around the ancient Lake Cahuilla lakebed. It is anticipated an inventory and report for the remainder of the park will be completed by the end of 2012.

Summary of Resource Monitoring. Aside from resource monitoring completed by CASSP stewards, annual ASCARs are completed by District archaeologists in order to monitor the condition of these resources. In addition, archaeologists from the Department's Southern Service Center are assisting Ocotillo Wells staff by inventorying portions of the park to update site records in order to have the most current data for planning decisions. Areas of the park not being inventoried by the Southern Service Center are being covered by District archaeologists and volunteers from CASSP. Park resources are also monitored by the local Native American community. It is projected that a complete inventory of resources of Ocotillo Wells SVRA will be completed by winter 2012.

Resolution of Conflict to Resources. Due to the fragility of the park's resources in this desert environment, larger village sites with sensitive resources are fenced off after consultation with local Native American groups and the District Superintendent. Additionally, traditional cultural properties and sacred sites are protected. Volunteers from CASSP are used to monitor impacts to these resources.

Prairie City SVRA – Cultural Resources

Current Condition of Cultural Resources. Prairie City SVRA is located within the ethnographic boundary of the Nisenan, the southern most tribe of the Maidu language group. The Nisenan were the largest of three Maidu groups, and they lived in large towns along the American and Sacramento Rivers. While currently there are no prehistoric sites within the SVRA, there are several large village sites along Interstate 50, north of park so it should not be discounted that the area may have once been occupied by prehistoric peoples. Given the extensive historic-era mining activities that once took place in today's Prairie City SVRA, it is likely the prehistory has been previously impacted and lost under the dredging piles related to the gold mining period of the area.

Portions of Prairie City SVRA were at one time part of the Folsom Mining District. The park includes two types of placer dredging tailings associated with the operations of the Capitol Dredging Company from 1927 to 1952. Until the early 1960s, the area was occupied by cattle ranchers before being purchased by the Aerojet General Corporation to build and test rocket engines for the federal government. One potential cultural resource eligible for the National Register is the Moon Room—a facility Aerojet built for monitoring rocket testing—of which only two similar structures are currently standing in the United States.

The Division's archaeologists completed a Cultural Resource Inventory Report for Prairie City SVRA in 2010. This park has the potential to yield information about military evolution and advancement in science and technology.

Summary of Resource Monitoring and Resolution of Conflict to Resources. Cultural resources monitoring plays an important role in documenting the Division's ongoing efforts to ensure, or verify, the avoidance of effects on known cultural resources at Prairie City SVRA. Division archaeologists monitor and prepare ASCARs as applicable to protect the condition of the park's resources. That being said, aside from a historic trash pit found at the SVRA, there are no significant cultural resources at Prairie City SVRA. The trash pit is monitored by Division archeologists, thus, there is no demand for CASSP monitors at the SVRA. There is no known record of resolution of conflict to resources at the park.

Federal Cultural Resource Management

When Grant applicants request funding for ground disturbing activities, potential impacts to cultural resources must be considered. Federal agencies are responsible for identifying and protecting cultural resources and avoiding unnecessary damage to them. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) provides comprehensive direction to federal agencies about their historic preservation responsibilities, and compels federal agencies to consider the effect of their undertakings on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in, or eligible for, inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment, also includes direction about the identification and consideration of historic properties in federal land management decisions. Several other federal laws direct federal agency protection and management of cultural resources, including resources that are of state or local significance.

The USFS and the BLM work under a Memorandum of Understanding with the California State Historic Preservation Officer to protect cultural resources and sites across public lands.

Specific to the USFS, the 2005 Travel Management Rule also requires that the effects on cultural resources be considered, with the objective of minimizing damage, when designating roads, trails, and areas for motor vehicle use on National Forest system lands.

The Grants Program provides important funding for federal agencies to implement cultural resource management and protection projects.

There are challenges inherent in managing use in designated OHV areas where cultural resources are also present. Maintaining cultural resources can best be accomplished by first locating and inventorying cultural sites, and then implementing specific protection measures. Effective measures to reduce the risk of adverse effects to cultural resources, including annual monitoring have been developed to help ensure the resources remain protected. Long-term monitoring and active management of popular OHV areas is needed to ensure protection measures continue to be effective.

USFS Cultural Resource Conditions

Many designated OHV areas on USFS lands have had cultural resource surveys (e.g., Cleveland and Angeles National Forests). The recorded cultural resource sites within these designated OHV areas and trails are monitored on an annual basis to ensure that any protection measures continue to be effective. Although few national forests in California have completed entire cultural resource inventories of all motorized recreation trails, the Mendocino National Forest has completely inventoried its designated OHV system of trails.

When inadvertent effects to cultural sites are noted, or sites are affected by encroachment off designated system trails, new protection measures are implemented. Region 5 has used regional programmatic agreements for NHPA Section 106 compliance to help manage OHV system uses and provide needed protection to cultural resource sites.

Several forests in Region 5 have effectively implemented site protection measures since 2004. For example, since 2004 more than nine miles of barriers and fences have been used in the Corral Canyon OHV area on the Cleveland National Forest to confine OHV use to authorized roads and trails and to protect numerous prehistoric archaeological sites in the area. The overall condition of cultural resource sites in the Corral Canyon OHV area ranges from fair to excellent.

In 2006, Region 5 entered into a separate programmatic agreement with the California State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding NHPA Section 106 compliance for motorized recreation projects. This agreement includes a variety of management measures that can be implemented to protect cultural resource sites from the effects of OHV use (e.g., barriers, reroutes, fencing, signs, and closures). Long-term monitoring on the Mendocino National Forest, for example, indicates that most cultural resource sites are in fair to excellent condition and are rarely affected by OHV uses.

Past protection efforts in the Rowher Flat OHV Area have concentrated on placing fencing and pipe-cable barriers to exclude traffic and protect significant cultural resource sites. Monitoring in 2007 involved inspection of 12 archaeological sites considered potentially susceptible to effects from OHV-related activities. This monitoring revealed that a number of archaeological sites were being impacted, primarily from OHV intrusion into archaeological sites by circumventing fenced areas, causing soil disturbance and displacement and breakage of cultural materials. A wildfire that burned through the OHV areas in 2007 caused increased risks to cultural resources resulting

from the burning of all barrier vegetation within Rowher Flat and damaged or fallen fencing at several places in both Rowher and Drinkwater Flats. Monitoring at 54 cultural resource sites in 2008 showed several archaeological sites, particularly within the Rowher Flat OHV Area, continued to be at-risk from OHV access through the sites. Based upon this monitoring, additional protective measures similar to those implemented in the past were recommended to protect cultural resources, including placement of sturdy cable barriers and fences to prevent further trespass and replacement of damaged barriers and fencing. Directive or prohibitive signage was also suggested as a means to inform the OHV-using public.

BLM Cultural Resource Conditions

From the start of the 2004 OHV Grant year, through the end of the grants issued in 2009, BLM received almost $527,000 in grants for management of cultural resources. A majority of the cultural resource funding provided during this period ($324,000) has been utilized by the Archeological Site Stewardship Program. Similar to the CASSP, this statewide program is a partnership between BLM, USFS, California State Parks, and the Society for California Archeology to train and utilize volunteer site stewards. These volunteers adopt specific cultural resource sites and work with agency archeologists to monitor and stabilize these sites.

An additional $202,000 has been used to fund specific cultural resource surveys in Ridgecrest and throughout the California Desert District. An example of a grant funded project to manage cultural resources is a project at the Olancha Dunes OHV Open Area, within the BLM Ridgecrest Field Office. The grant was to conduct sample inventory of cultural artifacts and conduct an ethnographic study of Native American use of the area involving Paiute and Shoshone people.

Resolution of Use Conflict

The population of California has nearly doubled since the OHMVR Program was created in 1971. Today, many in the OHV community, as they have done for decades, head to rural areas in search of OHV recreational opportunities. However, in recent years the population in rural areas has increased as people relocate from urban communities in search of peace and quiet. At the same time, areas traditionally available for OHV recreation have been shrinking. This increase in demand, coupled with the loss of available land for OHV recreation, has created a situation where competition for resources leads to land use conflicts. The clash between OHV enthusiasts and those who oppose OHV recreation near their homes and communities varies from small disagreements to outright hostility, and in a relatively small number of extreme cases, violence.

The conversion of lands previously available for OHV recreation has exacerbated the tensions between individuals. Lands which once were open to OHV use are now closed. Lands which were never open but were not fenced or signed by land owners are now clearly marked. In-holdings once available for OHV recreation are now being developed for other uses. In some instances communities of interest (homeowner associations, nonprofits, OHV recreation communities) are working together to solve these conflicts. However, in other areas the tensions continue to mount, leading to damage to private property, hostile attitudes and sometimes violence between individuals. Local law enforcement cannot always respond quickly enough due to competing priorities.

Additionally, on federal public lands, as the BLM and USFS implement designated route decisions, private property owners sign and fence their lands, and lands once open to OHV use are closed, the OHV community will continue to be displaced resulting in further conflicts between OHV activities and demand and other land uses. The development of additional managed areas must keep pace to off-set these losses so as to reduce conflicts among people and landscapes; but, this will take time. In the meantime resources are being dedicated to address these issues. The OHMVR Division has developed a land acquisition plan, and Division staff are continually assessing possible land acquisition opportunities.

To meet these challenges, the Commission and Division have taken an active role to reduce land use conflicts. Efforts range from general education and outreach, to specific conflict resolution between communities of interest, and focused enforcement efforts. All too often, there seems to be a lack of knowledge and understanding about where and when motorized use is allowed on public lands. In recent years, the Division has reached out in a variety of ways to:

- ✓ Provide information on the Division website about OHV Laws and a Frequently Asked Questions page specific to OHV use
- ✓ Create a process where members of the public can direct comments and questions directly to the Division (ohvinfo@parks.ca.gov) or to the Commission (OHVcommission@parks.ca.gov) regarding OHV recreation, and receive responses from Division and Commission staff
- ✓ Develop an OHV quick reference handbook for law enforcement officers statewide
- ✓ Work with local, state and federal law enforcement organizations on education and enforcement efforts
- ✓ Increase presence and participation at community outreach events to educate the public about the OHMVR Program and to learn their concerns
- ✓ Educate private property owners on steps to take to reduce illegal OHV use on their lands
- ✓ Provide funding for conflict resolution facilitation efforts throughout the state
- ✓ Provide technical assistance to local counties considering ordinances related to recreational OHV use
- ✓ Outreach to interested communities about the OHMVR Program and funding available for projects in their area

In concert with the OHMVR mission to provide statewide leadership, there are several instances where the Division has facilitated outreach efforts to address issues of land use conflict. The Division will continue to work with communities and organizations who are interested in conflict resolution and consensus building. It will also continue to work with local, state and federal law enforcement. At the foundation of these efforts is the belief that citizens care deeply about their public lands, and although it may be difficult at times, they also welcome the opportunity to engage one another productively and safely, to learn the concerns of other communities of interest, and to have others hear and appreciate their own concerns. A few examples of the Division efforts include:

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

In 2008, local stakeholders were in conflict regarding decisions under consideration which would affect the USFS Travel Management Process in the Inyo National Forest. The Division requested the services of the Center for Collaborative Policy to facilitate a local stakeholder discussion working through the difficult issues.

With 5,000 individually numbered routes making up a network of 3,700 miles of route, arriving at a sustainable and manageable system of roads, trails and areas for motorized use across lands managed by the Inyo National Forest presented a significant challenge. A broad group of local stakeholders were brought together in March. Participants were promised that, if they were able to agree on an alternative, the Forest Service would give it serious consideration through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The "Travel Management Collaborative Alternative Team" (CAT) met intensively over a two month period to determine if there were mutually acceptable options for trail routes on the Inyo National Forest that would provide for safe and environmentally responsible use. With professional facilitation provided by the Center for Collaborative Policy (made possible through a contract with the Division), the CAT was successful in their effort. A slightly revised version of their proposal was implemented by the Inyo National Forest and the decision was not appealed by any of the involved parties. One of the participants noted that the CAT was successful because they agreed that "it's not about winning or losing, but about the need to create a system that protects land and satisfies everyone's needs." Another participant observed this experience demonstrates that when stakeholders are brought together, they are likely to be successful.

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL

In the spring of 2010, the Division Public Safety Team was contacted by a number of individuals and agencies with concerns about reported trespass by dirt bikes along the Pacific Crest Trail, in and around the Tehachapi Mountains.

The Division contacted the BLM, USFS and Kern County regarding these reports and offered its assistance to address the situation. Subsequent site visits by State Park Rangers revealed that trespass into closed areas, as well as on private property, was occurring. Over the following weeks the agencies coordinated their efforts, meeting with one another as well as with local community groups, to help facilitate education and law enforcement.

Law enforcement's efforts were highlighted over the Easter holiday, when law enforcement personnel from the Kern County Sheriff's Office, California State Parks, USFS, and the BLM conducted a joint law enforcement effort targeting illegal OHV activity on the Pacific Crest Trail and on private property. Their efforts were successful as they resulted in the capture of three riders along the Pacific Crest Trail. Additional combined efforts are planned for the area.

HOPE VALLEY

Hope Valley, located in the Sierra just south of Lake Tahoe, is an area surrounded by high peaks, beautiful meadows and stunning vistas. Those who live in the area and those who visit Hope Valley are passionate about the land and how it is managed. With various ideologies and viewpoints, getting a disparate group of people to agree on an approach to winter travel and use in Hope Valley seemed virtually impossible. The Division believed it was essential to get people together to initiate a dialogue to see if consensus on the issues could be achieved. Given the groups' shared passion for Hope Valley, the Division believed there was strong potential for finding common ground and agreement. The Division reached out to the Center for Collaborative Policy for assistance.

Representatives from the USFS, Alpine County, local friends groups, and various motorized and non-motorized groups came together to discuss issues regarding appropriate access to public lands. Cross-country skiers wanted to ski without the sound and smell of snowmobiles. Snowmobilers wanted access to closed lands outside of wilderness areas. Over time, initial disagreement and polarization was replaced by understanding and agreement. At the end of the process, a set of recommendations, and a series of steps to address use conflicts was presented to the USFS for incorporation into the winter management plan.

WONDER VALLEY

In December 2008, the Commission and Division received letters and emails from a number of residents of Wonder Valley, located in unincorporated San Bernardino County, describing OHV conflicts and private property trespass. The area is a desert landscape with a system of dirt roads. Most private property is not fenced or signed. The authorized BLM OHV routes are generally not signed.

Throughout 2009, the Division Public Safety Team met with local residents, representatives from BLM, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, County Code enforcement, and California Highway Patrol (CHP) in an effort to improve communication and initiate collaboration amongst the local residents as well as law enforcement agencies. On several occasions, State Park Rangers from the Division assisted by providing public safety coverage and patrol.

Irrespective of whether local residents are OHV enthusiasts or opposed to OHV recreation, all parties have expressed appreciation for the Division's efforts to help educate residents and visitors about appropriate OHV use, and their efforts to reduce conflict in the area.

FOLSOM LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA

In 2009 a horse was severely injured, and had to be destroyed after being spooked by dirt bikes operating illegally at Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. The incident shocked the motorized and non-motorized communities alike. Working under the facilitation of Americans for Responsible Recreational Access, a group came together and worked cooperatively to develop a strategy to improve relationships and improve trail-sharing techniques between equestrian, OHV, mountain biking, and hiking groups on a local, state and national level. The Division was an active participant in suggesting corrective actions, educational efforts, and other activities to direct OHV recreation to appropriate areas. The commitment of the group to this project was unwavering. In a short period of time, the groups produced: Sharing Our Trails – A Guide to Trail Etiquette. The guide represents the efforts of a broad range of trail enthusiasts working together to develop an understanding and respect of each other's needs, and a guide that specifically tells trail enthusiasts what steps to take when they meet on the trail to minimize use conflict, increase safety, and enhance enjoyment of our public recreation opportunities.

Report Requirement No. 3

The status and accomplishments of funds appropriated for restoration pursuant to paragraph (s) of subdivision (b) of Section 5090.50.

Overview

From the start of the OHMVR Program, the Legislature has recognized the importance of the partnerships that are shared by the Division statewide. Financial assistance for these entities is provided for in PRC Section 5090.50 Grants and Cooperative Agreements.

This importance is specifically stated in statute:

> *Off-highway motor vehicle recreation should be managed in accordance with this chapter through financial assistance to local governments and joint undertakings with agencies of the United States and with federally recognized Native American tribes.*

Since 1971 when the first grant was awarded, the financial assistance program continues to be an important component of the statewide OHMVR Program.

Since the 2004 approximately $28 million of OHV Trust Funds have been awarded to eligible entities to fund restoration activities throughout the State of California. In the 2009-2010 fiscal year, pursuant to the legislative changes discussed below, $7.6 million was available with approximately $8 million in applications that were designed to provide approximately 2,872 miles and/or 1,549,000 acres of restored habitat.

Legislative Changes

SB 742, which went into effect in 2008, changed the language in PRC Section 5090.50 (b)(2)(A) to provide for:

- **Consistent funding:** In past years, the amount of grant funding directed to restoration efforts was set by the Commission each year. In order to stabilize funding levels and ensure sufficient funding was directed to restoration activities in the future, SB 742 establishes that 25% of funds appropriated by the Legislature for the Grants Program are allocated for restoration projects.
- **Appropriate Use of Restoration Funds:** SB 742 specifies that restoration funds are to be used for projects that provide ecological restoration or repair to habitat damaged by legal or illegal OHV use.

Loan of Previously Dedicated Restoration Funds to California's General Fund

When SB 742 was enacted, it included changes to the Conservation and Enforcement Services Account (CESA) described in Revenue and Taxation Code (RTC) Section 8352.8 which had previously dedicated a percentage of fuel tax revenues to restoration. As a result of the changes, no new funds are deposited into the CESA. The funds remaining in the CESA are to be spent as directed by the section until they are depleted. RTC Section 8352.8 (b)(2) states that up to $1.1 million of the remaining funds may be made available in each grant funding cycle to increase the amount of funding available for restoration grants.

However, the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 state budget acts borrowed a total of $112 million from the OHV Trust Fund, which included the remaining CESA funds. The ability to increase the level of funding to future restoration grants above the 25% level identified in Section 5090.50 (b)(2)(A) will be dependent on these funds being repaid to the OHV Trust Fund.

Restoration in USFS and BLM Areas

Through financial assistance to federal agencies for restoration project cooperative agreements, significant results have been achieved in repairing and restoring lands that have been impacted by OHV recreation activities.

USFS Restoration

Improving and restoring the health of its watersheds and ecosystems is a national priority for the USFS, which typically implements two types of restoration: passive and active. Passive restoration methods can include blocking routes, such as with boulders, or vertical mulching, where native plant materials are placed throughout the route to "disguise" it and allow natural revegetation. In active restoration projects, ground-disturbing activities such as "ripping" or scarifying the ground make the route impassible. Culverts and other engineered structures are removed and in some instances, seeding and

planting strategies combined with noxious weed abatement activities are implemented.

Between 2004 and 2009, in California the USFS received $9,256,248 in Grants Program restoration funding to address habitat fragmentation or degradation, hill climbs, and illegal use in meadows and other sensitive areas. During this time, most of the 19 national forests in California had at least one major restoration project, and several forests had multiple projects. In many cases, the forests leveraged OHV Trust Fund dollars with watershed funding resulting in tangible results on the ground, and promoting land stewardship and volunteerism on the forests.

Most of the restoration projects have been in the Six Rivers, Mendocino, Plumas, Tahoe, Sierra, Inyo, Sequoia, Los Padres, Angeles, San Bernardino, and Cleveland National Forests. The typical projects included hill climb and illegal route removal, slope and stream bank stabilization, slope recontouring, meadow restoration, fencing, barriers, native plant revegetation, and boulder placement. Monitoring is a key component of restoration projects and is typically accomplished through the resource and recreation (OHV) programs. Field specialists are frequently onsite for the implementation of restoration projects to ensure project success and support any necessary project mitigations.

Monitoring has multiple aspects in restoration projects, and monitoring visits have provided quality baseline data for future implementation of projects. The USFS focuses on the “Three E’s” methodology (Education, Engineering, and Enforcement) for managing OHV recreation and assuring the success of restoration projects.

- Education efforts include signs, personal contacts and printed information. Through these methods of contact, staff educates the public regarding why it is important to respect project boundaries, and the ways restoration projects benefit the overall health of the system, thus ensuring recreational opportunities be managed for the long term.

- Engineering includes vertical mulching to stabilize restoration sites, and installation of barriers to prevent incursion into restored areas.
- Enforcement actions (contacts and citations, etc.) is another tool leading to increased restoration success in those instances when education and engineering have not proven to be successful in preventing vehicle incursions into restored areas.

BLM Restoration

With strong support from the Division, since 2004 the BLM has accomplished restoration of 322 miles of non-designated OHV trails across California and 484 acres of vehicle-disturbed lands. Since that time, the BLM has received $15,086,424 for restoration projects. The BLM focuses most intensively on lands in the Mojave and Sonoran deserts.

Restoration has accelerated the process of reconnecting fragmented desert vegetation and has set the stage for recovering blocks of uninterrupted habitat for threatened and endangered species such as desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel, and for BLM sensitive species such as the flat-tailed horned lizard.

The principal strategy for vegetation restoration and habitat enhancement has been to create conditions on the ground that redirect OHV recreation away from unauthorized OHV trails and areas so that natural desert ecosystems can initiate the process of recovering vegetation communities and habitat continuity impacted by OHV recreation.

Desert techniques generally involve:

- Vertical mulching to create a visual barrier of dead and down vegetation to the line of sight that disguises a former trail and or make use of rock work and fencing to create a physical barrier.
- Texturing the bare soil with small pits which are then filled with seeds found in the plant litter beneath nearby shrubs. These pits act as rainfall traps that concentrate water to the seeds at the bottom of the pit and give seeds a more favorable microsite for germination.

Significant projects underway are: fencing the wildlife-rich Dos Palmas ACEC near Indio; landscape restoration for the hyperarid Yuha Desert near El Centro; and rehabilitation of vehicle damage in the Alabama Hills, a popular scenic recreation destination in the Owens Valley. Restoration

crews patrol the boundaries of all 67 BLM desert wildernesses and secure wilderness boundaries by mending fences, disguising old mining roads, and creating needed parking areas for OHV recreationists at wilderness edges.

An important change to the OHMVR Grants Program provided for funding to nonprofits for restoration and trail maintenance. In 2009, Friends of Jawbone took advantage of this opportunity and applied for and received a grant for restoration work on BLM land in the Jawbone-Butterbredt ACEC, near California City, in Kern County. BLM will continue to expand its partnerships with Friends of Jawbone and other OHV clubs and advocacy groups who share a concern for land stewardship and responsible use.

Monitoring restoration projects is a key element for evaluating the success of various restoration techniques and engaging in adaptive management to adjust approaches to restoration as needed. The BLM California Desert District has established a uniform protocol to document the installation of restoration projects so that a historic record of baseline conditions is available for evaluating future work. Following initial restoration actions, the project managers, park rangers, and law enforcement officers check on restoration sites at least quarterly. If storm erosion, inadequate vegetation taking hold, or illegal riding cause the site to depart from desired conditions, the restoration project managers can respond quickly with remedial treatments. Both site photography and quantitative monitoring of vegetation cover and species composition take place every year for at least five years.

The BLM has also been the beneficiary of grants that help agency restoration ecologists conduct adaptive management testing with new techniques in restoration methods and review past results of restoration projects. Two major projects have been completed: (1) experimental restoration trials on serpentine (magnesium-rich) barrens and adjacent serpentine riparian areas in the Inner Coast Range; and (2) a retrospective view of rates of natural and facilitated regeneration along the Los Angeles Aqueduct. Currently, the staffs of the BLM Needles and Lake Havasu field offices are collaborating on restoration methods to jumpstart regeneration of saguaros in OHV riding areas in eastern San Bernardino County, one of two sites where saguaros still occur in California.

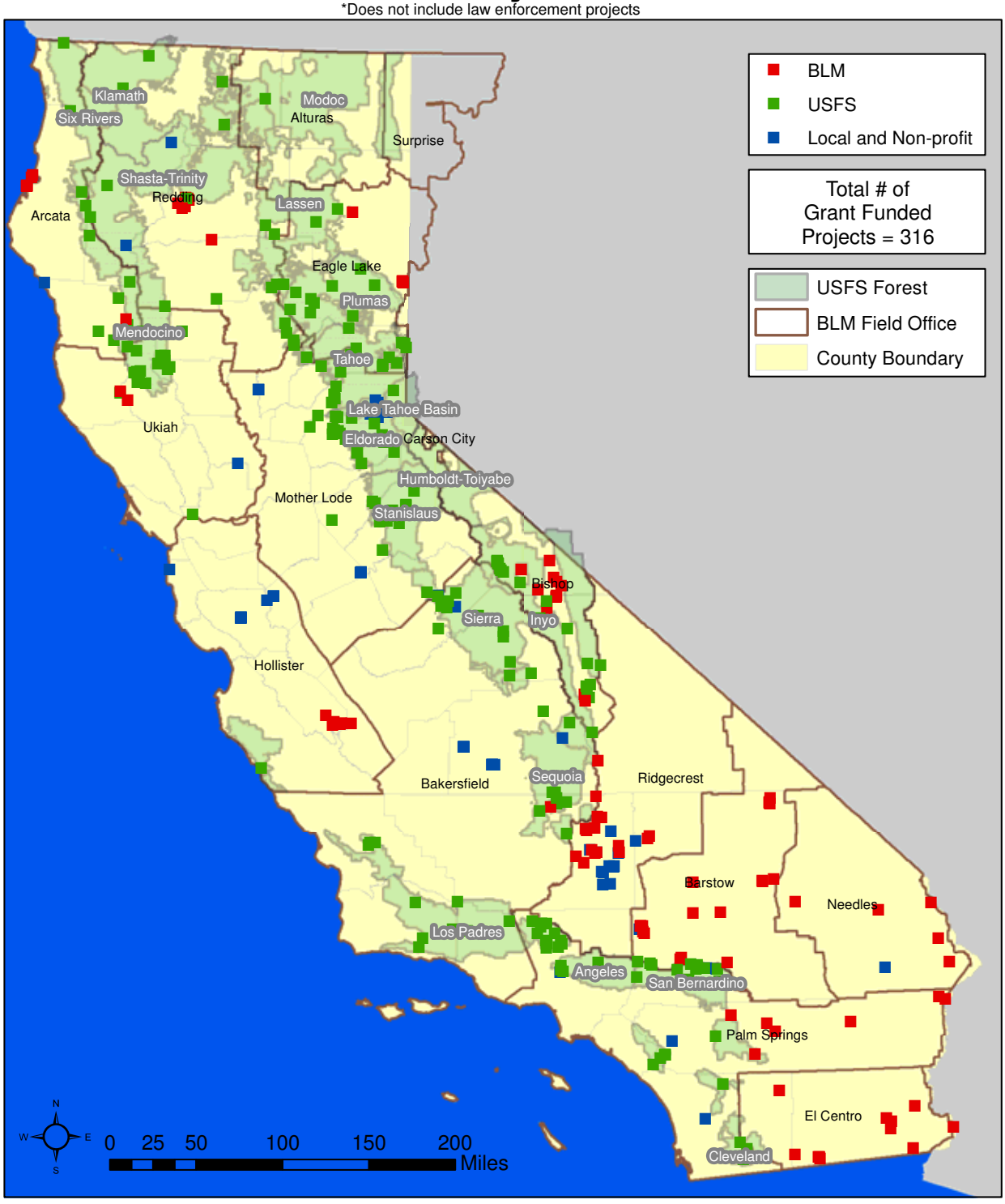
ALABAMA HILLS

An example of a project that received a national award is the Alabama Hills restoration project completed by the BLM Bishop Field Office. The project involved the re-alignment and restriction of parking areas; closed motorized “challenge” areas; restored habitat damaged by irresponsible and illegal OHV use; developed and printed maps, rules and regulations; and monitored restored impacted areas. The OHV Trust Fund contributed $120,000 to this project.

This project was a partnership effort between the BLM Bishop Field Office and the Alabama Hills Stewardship Group, a local community group. In recognition of outstanding conservation achievements attained through collaboration and partnership with others, the BLM Bishop Field Office and the Alabama Hills Stewardship Group received the United States Department of Interior Cooperative Conservation Award. The award recognizes cooperative conservation achievements that involve collaborative activity among a diverse range of entities that may include federal, state, local and tribal governments, private for-profit and nonprofit institutions, other non-governmental entities, and individuals.

OHMVR Division
Grant Funded Projects 2004 - 2010*

*Does not include law enforcement projects

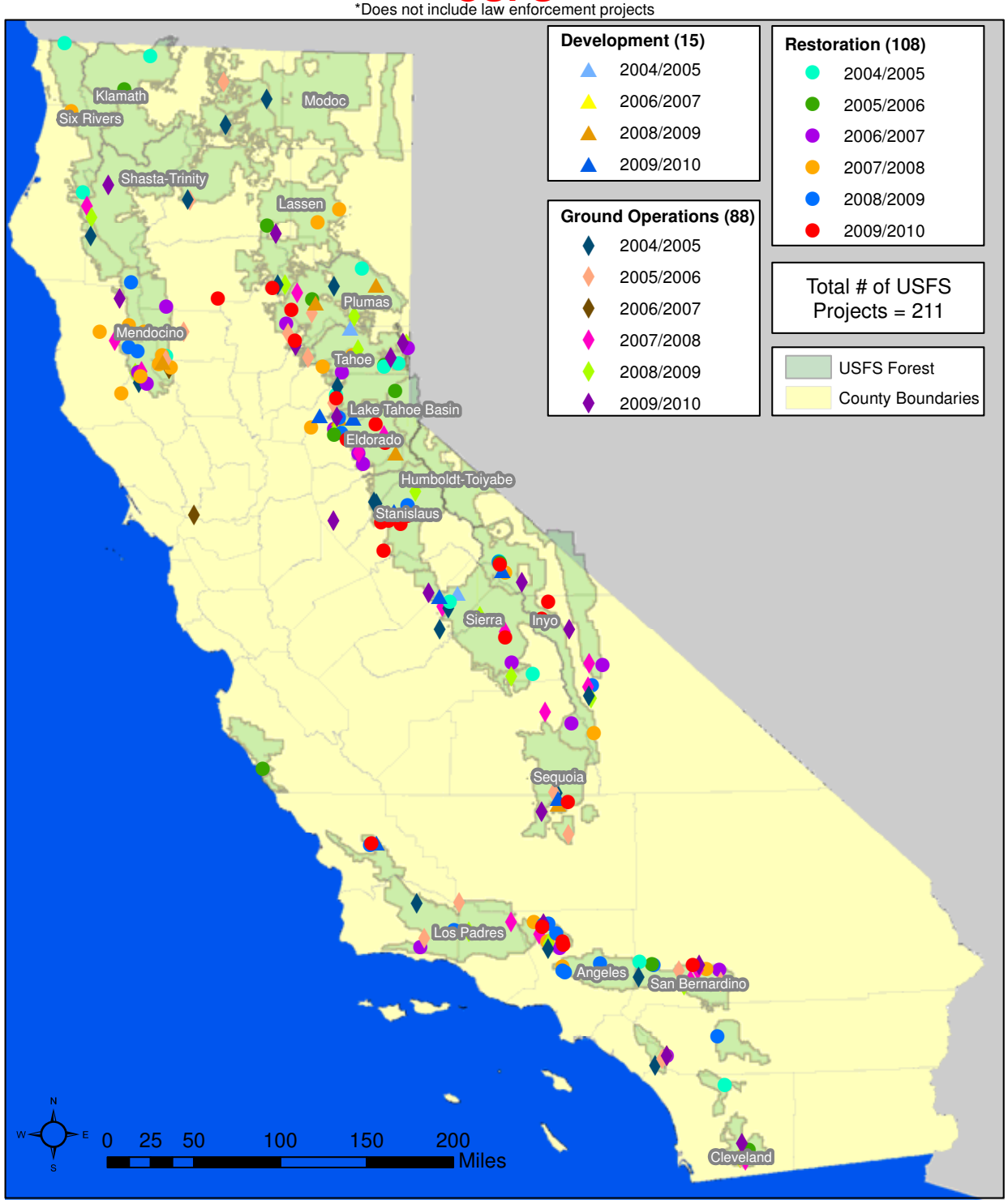


OHMVR Division Grant Funded Projects*

2004 - 2010

USFS

*Does not include law enforcement projects

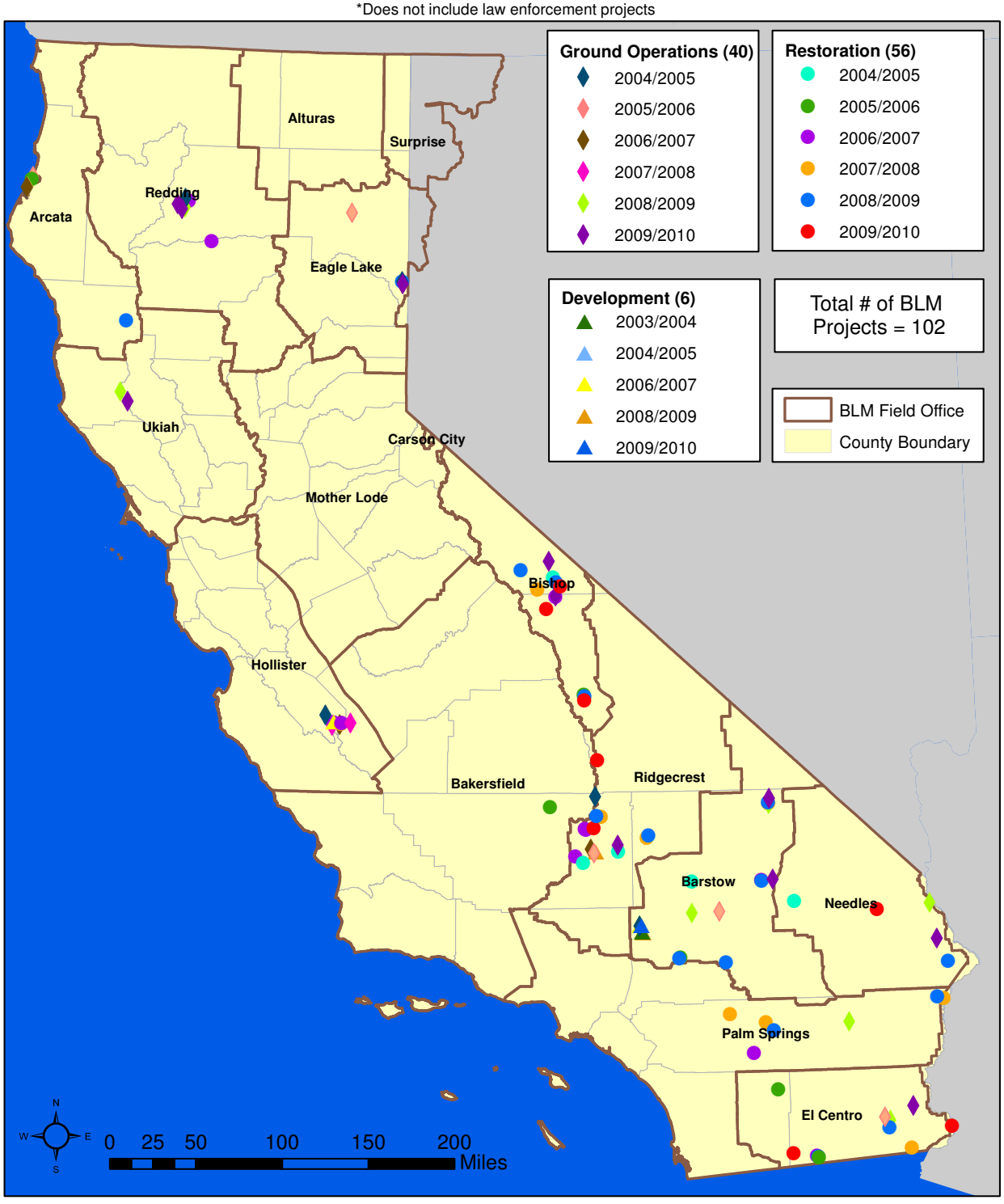


OHMVR Division Grant Funded Projects*

2004 - 2010

BLM

*Does not include law enforcement projects

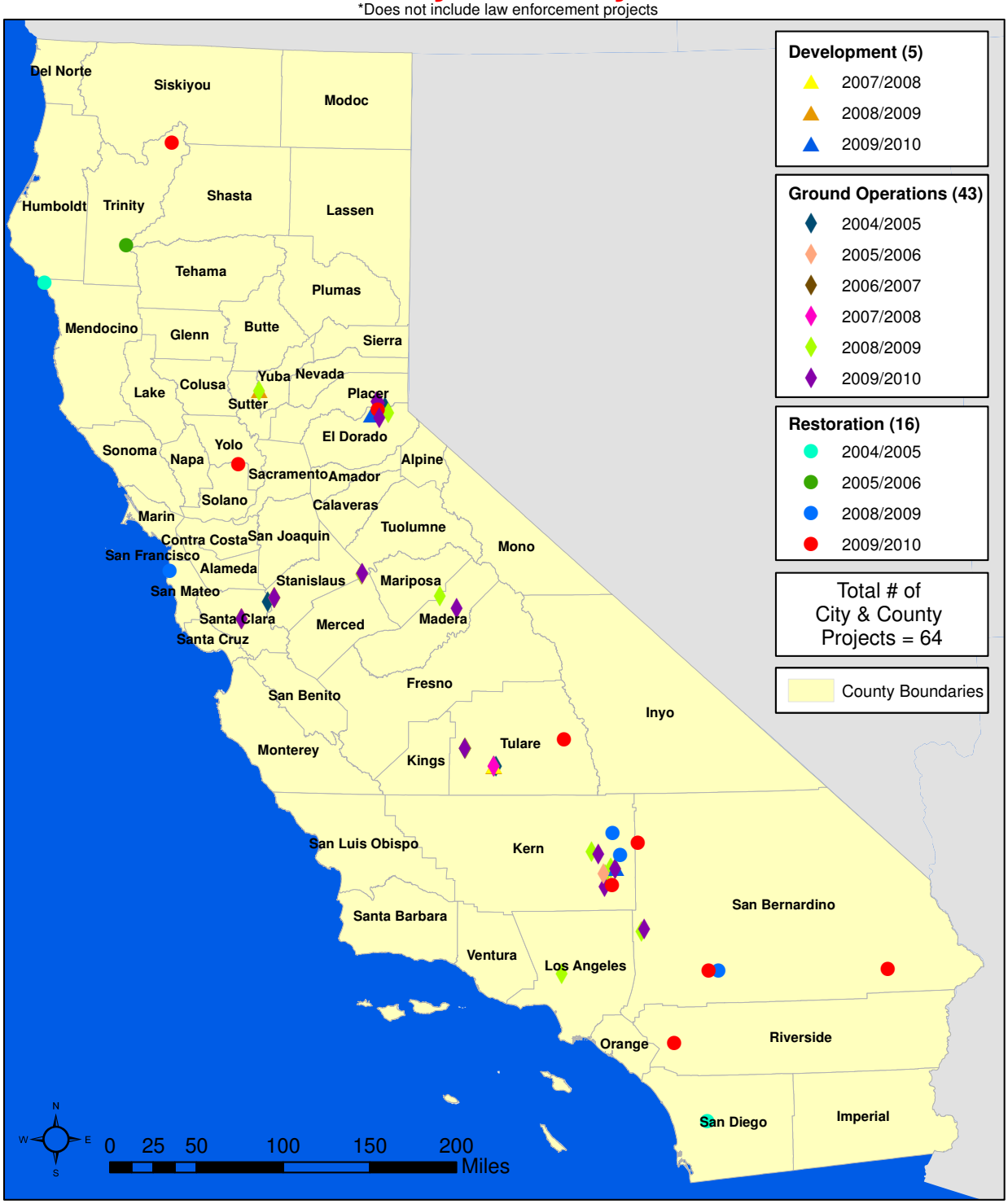


OHMVR Division Grant Funded Projects*

2004 - 2010

City & County

*Does not include law enforcement projects



Report Requirement No. 4

A summary of resource monitoring data compiled and restoration work completed.

Overview

Monitoring data are essential for understanding and addressing the natural resource needs of an SVRA. Monitoring may provide targeted data, such as determining the presence of specific special-status species, or answer broader questions about species diversity and biological trends. The WHPP, mandated by PRC Section 5090.35, and the HMS developed by the Division are a major part of each SVRA's resource monitoring and evaluation program.

The Division helps guide resource management for the entire SVRA system, and each SVRA's HMS includes standardized protocols tailored for the needs of the particular SVRA. In addition, each SVRA prepared a WHPP, which focused on habitat management, and is supported by the HMS.

The goals of the WHPP are to monitor and manage wildlife and plant populations and restore habitats where necessary to sustain a viable species composition for each area. The data collected through monitoring help answer a range of questions, such as: What habitats need additional protection; where should funds be expended; where should fencing be located to protect sensitive habitats; which habitat types are more resistant to OHV use and which are not; which OHV use patterns are sustainable and which are not? These plans enable adaptive management, allowing management practices and strategies to change, or "adapt," as warranted by the new monitoring information.

Environmental scientists for each SVRA conduct and oversee the monitoring based on the HMS and other monitoring protocols. Environmental scientists monitor wildlife and plants. Since 2004, funding for monitoring has increased. In some instances, park resource staff has increased as well.

Program Review and Improvement

In an effort to ensure the Division is conducting a quality OHMVR Program, in 2008 the Division contracted with the University of California at Davis to provide an independent peer review of the existing HMS program. The review was completed in 2009.

Among the recommendations of this review is the suggestion to design a second generation WHPP/HMS that better supports efforts at the SVRAs to fulfill the goals set forth in PRC Section 5090.35 as well as meet legal obligations described in state and federal statutes. The second generation WHPP/HMS will also modify the existing plans of habitat protection and monitoring with an emphasis defined by natural resource management needs at each of the SVRAs.

Monitoring in the SVRAs

Carnegie SVRA – Monitoring

Species Monitoring

Surveys of the park's habitat have occurred periodically since 1980. Beginning in 2003 and ending in 2009, the HMS survey protocols were implemented with more consistency than in previous years due to more regular staffing. The focus was on bird species and amphibians, although reptiles and mammals were also sampled. Recently, park staff began implementing new HMS protocols, building on the information collected from the past six years.

During this six year period (2003-2009), bird surveys provided the most readily analyzed data measured at the park. Twice each year, four to six transects were surveyed by two to four State Park ecologists. These transects were loosely divided by habitat type (blue oak, California annual grassland, California sagebrush-black sage, and riparian) and OHV use (open vs. closed).

The analysis for bird species diversity has shown moderate to high levels for the park, in general. Statistical analysis suggested no significant differences existed between riding and non-riding (control) areas.

The aim of the bird survey protocol was to learn more about the species and the habitats they use. From this effort, certain birds were determined to live within specific habitats, while others did not show a preference. As an

example, blue oak woodland is among the park's three distinct habitat types. A majority of the bird observations (>60%, n=291) showed the acorn woodpecker, Lewis's woodpecker, oak titmouse, and white-breasted nuthatch present within this habitat. If a strong correlation does exist with these species and the blue oak woodland, the health of this ecosystem could then be partially measured by the presence of these species. As a result of the first generation HMS dataset, each habitat type now has its own group of indicator bird species which are being analyzed in the 2010 surveys. Discerning this information is crucial to maintaining the park's biodiversity, since the species that show a high dependence on a single habitat type are the species most affected if that habitat is lost or becomes less suitable. Therefore, the second generation of HMS protocols is focusing on the species that are the most sensitive to change and are unable to survive in a wide range of habitats. Simultaneously, environmental scientists are measuring trail density and vegetation cover within certain habitats to determine if correlations exist with the indicator species. If so, then clear management directives can be outlined.

Also during the period of 2003-2009, amphibians were measured on an annual basis with the focus on detecting presence of the federally-listed threatened California red-legged frog (the frog) and California tiger salamander (the salamander). The park has 21 ponds, most of which are monitored by park staff twice each year using dip nets and binoculars in order to verify the presence of these species. Since 1995, the average percentage of the park's ponds with frog presence is 36% and salamander presence is 30%. In 2009, seven of the 16 ponds sampled had presence of at least one of these species. The sampling effort has been variable over this time period with an average of 13 ponds sampled each year. Although their presence is highly variable from year to year, a few ponds consistently had frogs and salamanders and appeared to be breeding ponds. While all ponds are managed assuming these species are present, and are therefore restricted from OHV use, these source ponds are considered the most critical to the population's persistence, and greater levels of protection are given (e.g., buffer areas). The amphibians will continue to be sampled using the protocols of the last several years.

The biggest hurdle to answering resource management questions has been the loose framework of the first generation HMS study design. The dataset is very broad and had been inconsistently

implemented to make inferences on a fine scale. The second generation HMS protocols are designed to address these shortcomings and allow staff to evaluate population trends and make comparisons between OHV and non-OHV areas by adhering to the appropriate sampling standards and statistical methodology. For instance, instead of using six transects for bird surveys, a very low sample size, over 40 sample sites have been established. Although these protocols will need to be tested over the next few years to ensure adequate sampling occurs, once in place they will be effective at guiding management decisions since they reduce the large amount of "noise" in the dataset. The components measured in these new protocols are inclusive of vegetation, birds, amphibians, and both small and large mammals. The vegetation, bird, and mammal protocols changed markedly from the original protocols, while the amphibian component will remain consistent as it provides adequate data.

Trails Management and Restoration

Trail management is one of the highest resource priorities for the park. The park has a network of established trails, although off-trail riding occurs. Off-trail riding is discouraged through the use of fences, education, and enforcement. The soils of these trails are monitored for signs of erosion per the 2008 Soil Conservation Standard.

Starting in 2009, over 151 miles of trails were rated based on soil conditions. These ratings are used to identify problem areas and plan restoration projects. As an example, the area known as SRI Loop had 54% (2.5 miles) of trails in need of some level of maintenance based on the soil condition evaluations. These trails were restored or eliminated, and the soils

were returned to a sustainable rating. Soil evaluations will continue to be conducted on an annual basis.

Also in 2009, the park adopted a new sustainable trail plan strategy. Essentially, park staff has divided the park into eight large management areas. Over the course of the next several years, one area at a time will be closed for restoration work, including trail rehabilitation and redesign, and heavily patrolled for off-trail activity.

Due to the steep terrain and dense vegetation, restoration efforts can be difficult. Hand crews often implement the majority of trail work, which includes tooling out large ruts, re-contouring trail tread, and installing water control features. Heavy equipment is also used for regular maintenance and larger projects. Significant restoration efforts have greatly enhanced the health of the park's ecosystem and the density of habitat. The Rocky Knob project is a great example.

Rocky Knob is one of the most popular hills in the park. At approximately 1,600 feet in elevation, it is known for its landscape views and unique rock outcrops, but over the past several years this area had become severely eroded. In 2008, park staff developed a plan to restore Rocky Knob. This plan included replacing soil to cover the bedrock, repairing the access road, constructing a sustainable OHV trail, and restoring the gully below. The project was able to utilize soil deposits already on site, found within the sediment basins, to both replace soil and fill the gully. Fencing restricts recreational use and allows for vegetation recovery, which was encouraged by hydro-seeding. The new trail connects to other trails and once again allows access to one of the most popular areas in the park.

The results of these efforts have been very positive by greatly reducing erosion, increasing vegetative cover to improve overall habitat throughout the park, and providing sustainable high quality recreational opportunities for our visitors.

Clay Pit SVRA – Monitoring

A wetland delineation completed in 2005 located 154 wetlands, including vernal pools. A follow up delineation was conducted in 2008. Together the two delineations identified almost 200 separate wetlands. Surveys of the vernal pools identified various aquatic flowering plants and biota, including the federally-listed threatened vernal pool fairy shrimp. Additionally, a bird survey and vegetation survey for sensitive plant species have been completed.

Data collected by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the original property owner, show very little change in the status of the vernal pool and wetland habitat over the past 15 years. Park staff is currently working on obtaining a more comprehensive set of documents from agencies such as the DWR, which would allow them to better track changes.

Until 2010, Clay Pit SVRA was managed by Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, which has different mandates for species monitoring and resource management. Now that the OHMVR Division has assumed operational control of the park, park staff has begun implementing the HMS monitoring program. OHMVR staff will be monitoring for species per the HMS protocols, which include birds, aquatic invertebrates, reptiles, plants, and soils. A park General Plan is currently under way and will provide strategies and alternatives for development, management, and restoration activities, along with guidance from regulatory agencies.

Hollister Hills SVRA – Monitoring

In a progressive approach to the HMS program, Hollister Hills has incorporated adaptive management practices driven by the data collected from biological monitoring. For example, environmental scientists are examining the results of amphibian monitoring to determine if the feral pig control program (discussed below) has influenced amphibian populations. The most recent amphibian surveys done over the past two years indicate healthy California red-legged frog populations with at least two breeding ponds.[13] Additionally, populations of California tiger salamander, Pacific chorus frog, western toad, and California newt are also prevalent in the park's ponds.[14]

The park has been challenged to maintain consistency in its monitoring program during the past two years because, due to a number of reasons including statewide hiring restrictions and freezes, the park was without an environmental scientist for most of that time. Monitoring was

accomplished by environmental scientists loaned from other locations. The situation was recently resolved with the hiring of a full time environmental scientist for the park.

Monitoring for non-native invasive plants is done on a continuous basis to determine if species control measures have been effective or need to be modified. The District has maintained a grazing program, to reduce fire danger by reducing accumulation of fuels (grass) and to help control invasive weeds, for the last 15 years. To monitor the effectiveness of grazing in accomplishing these goals, data is being collected on several components of the program. In 2008 the District negotiated a contract with the University of California (UC) at Berkeley to complete a two year study assessing the effectiveness of the grazing as it pertains to suppressing invasive plants. The park retained the expertise from UC Berkeley to review and interpret data in association with the grazing program, with a focus on adaptively managing the culturally significant grazing program to reduce non-native plant dispersal.

The primary goal of the Berkeley study is to develop an improved Grazing Management Plan (GMP), with monitoring objectives which address the management of grazed lands in the park. This effort is an on-going process and UC Berkeley should have a recommendation available for the District Superintendent in early 2011. As part of the GMP, monitoring of changes in vegetation has been done in the past but has stopped in recent years due to staff vacancies. The park does have plans to restart the vegetation monitoring of grazed land with modern GIS techniques that will more effectively map the changes in plant communities.

Non-native feral pigs are found throughout Hollister Hills SVRA, and their presence is having a negative effect on native ecosystems.[15] This invasive species damages sensitive habitat, specifically the wetlands in which the California red-legged frogs and California tiger salamanders breed. In 2006, California State Parks established a MOU for the depredation of non-native feral pigs with the CDFG. The agreement allowed park rangers to dispatch feral pigs throughout the park when it was safe and convenient to do so. This helped to control the population, but a greater effort was needed.

In 2009 with the assistance of CDFG, the park began an aggressive pig monitoring and depredation program. Hollister Hills SVRA contracted with Rural Pig Management, Inc. to establish a feral pig depredation program. The main purpose of the program is to reduce pig populations by trapping and killing pigs within the park. Rural Pig Management, Inc. provides the park with data including number of pigs taken, gender, estimated weight and age, and location and time of take. Additionally, the contractor assists CDFG by providing intestinal samples for *E. coli* testing. CDFG and State Parks are using the information obtained at Hollister Hills SVRA to assist in the statewide cooperative program between the two agencies. Since the program began, there have been significantly less feral pig sightings in the park. Amphibian studies completed in 2008 and again in 2010 indicated a healthy population of both California red-legged frogs and California tiger salamanders. The park will continue to monitor pigs and amphibians and base management decisions on new data as it becomes available.

The primary cause of erosion at Hollister Hills is rill erosion caused by water concentrating into innumerable, closely spaced small channels. If these are not maintained, they cut vertically and horizontally and eventually lead to the formation of gullies which further accelerates the loss of soil.

The park's soil conservation plan identifies protocols for assessment, maintenance, and monitoring of trail and soil conditions. Monitoring is done on a quarterly basis and consists of an inspection of the entire trail system by the trail crew to observe conditions and identify potential problem areas. Quarterly monitoring components include photos taken by digital GPS-enabled cameras at established photo points. This photographic record allows for photographic analysis and comparison to detect and quantify changes. Informal monitoring is performed weekly by volunteers through the Trail Watch Volunteer Program. This allows for documented observations after weekends and busy periods, which result in monthly work assignments and trail repairs to rectify problems that were discovered. All monitoring data is compiled into reports by the District Trail Coordinator. The trail inspections, monitoring, and documentation ultimately result in an annual trail maintenance repair priority schedule.

Hollister Hills is divided by the San Andreas Fault leaving roughly half of the park with a high clay content soil and the other half with a sandy decomposing granitic soil. The clay areas of the park are much more stable and require much less maintenance, allowing for trails with steeper hills and sustainable hill climbs. Conversely, the granitic soil areas are less stable and must be continuously monitored for soil loss. Installing erosion control features such as rolling dips and water bars, re-routing trails or sections of trails, and closing non-sustainable areas are just some of the more modern techniques used by staff to improve the historic trails in the park. Areas which are closed are re-vegetated with local native plants and grasses to act as bio-filters and to stabilize soil.

All trails receive routine maintenance that involve filling in rills by pulling in outside berms and slough and then compacting the soil back in to the trail tread. Erosion control features are regularly cleaned and checked for effectiveness. When monitoring reports determine that a trail is no longer sustainable despite frequent maintenance, the trail or trail section will be re-routed, have additional erosion control features installed, or be closed. In the past five years, numerous restoration projects were completed at Hollister Hills SVRA. These rehabbed trails will continue to be monitored to ensure the effectiveness of the corrective actions.

Based on observations by park staff, the above projects have resulted in a net decrease in the amount of site soil loss and sediment delivery to adjacent ephemeral and perennial stream courses, which should improve water quality. Recently the park began a five-year water monitoring program with the assistance of California State University at Monterey Bay to determine the effect these projects have had on soil conditions.

Hollister Hills SVRA is in its 7th year of continuous dust monitoring, and is moving forward with the expansion of the park's dust monitoring program. Working with the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, the first phase of the program established a baseline of the particulate matter recorded in the 10 micron range (PM_{10}) for one year starting in July 2004. Data was gathered at five sites within the park. Two of the monitoring locations were in the existing park boundaries, and three were in the

newly acquired areas. The data showed that levels at all locations in the park were well within acceptable ambient air quality standards, with peak values typically less than half the California standard.[16]

The park is entering the second phase of the program, which will include installation of three permanent monitoring sites. EBAM Mass Monitors will continuously measure dust samples every hour, uploading the information via satellite. The units are compliant with EPA standards and also include meteorological instruments that record weather data for analysis alongside the dust levels. Due to the remote locations of the dust monitoring sites, the units will be powered by solar panels, with large battery backups for uninterrupted monitoring.

Hungry Valley SVRA – Monitoring

For the purpose of annual habitat monitoring, Hungry Valley SVRA is broken into five habitat types: mixed shrubland, juniper shrubland, grassland, mixed woodland, and riparian woodland. For the vegetation surveys, one OHV recreation plot and one control plot are surveyed for each habitat type, except for the riparian woodland in which only one control plot was surveyed due to the fact there are no riparian OHV recreation areas within Hungry Valley SVRA. Therefore, the total number of vegetation plots surveyed is nine. An expanded version of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) field sampling protocol was integrated into the HMS and is conducted on all nine plots annually.

The bird, herpetile and small mammal surveys are carried out on a total of 11 plots; one riparian woodland control plot, along with two plots per remaining habitat type are surveyed; one being control and one OHV. Two additional animal concentration plots are also surveyed, bringing the total to 11. Bird surveys are conducted in both spring and winter as per 1997 protocol changes. Small mammal monitoring is now carried out every other year (per 1998 protocol changes). Large mammal monitoring using three remote operating cameras is conducted every summer. The precise protocols for each animal type are detailed in the 1997 San Diego State University[17] report and the HMS[18] document.

A ground based vegetation cover photo-monitoring program for Hungry Valley SVRA is conducted twice a year. Digital photographs are taken under identical conditions from each of the 11 permanent photo-points. Photo-documentation sheets are prepared for each photograph

showing: date, time, bearing, weather, camera, and lens. The digital images are preserved for comparisons of vegetative cover and are available for review.

Aerial photographs of the entire park were taken in 2000 with the large 9”x 9” negative format and a 1 to 12000 scale. This image monitoring process was changed from aerial photographs to satellite imaging in 2004. A color satellite image has been received at this time. It is in a GIS digital format with one-meter location accuracy and resolution. This image is outstanding and is a great asset to the vegetation monitoring program. All of these monitoring programs have been carried out completely and consistently for the past 14 years creating a significant data archive.

Analysis of Habitat Monitoring Data

The District Senior Environmental Scientist completes an Annual Habitat Monitoring Report[19] to determine the recreational impacts on SVRA habitats. Data from animal and vegetation surveys are recorded and entered into Diversity Calculation spreadsheets. The Diversity Calculation spreadsheets list the plot #, habitat type; sample area and all other plot description information; as well as calculating density, diversity and evenness for each plot. At this point in the data analysis, processed data from the Diversity Calculation spreadsheets for each plot are entered into graphs for each indicator to determine trends in habitat health at each plot. These graphical representations make it easier to understand and visually see any long-term changes that are occurring at the park and make appropriate management responses. (See Report Requirement No. 2 for condition assessment.)

The HMS program is assessed annually and changes are made as needed. For example, a GIS/GPS protocol was added for monitoring the coast horned lizard (species of concern) and raptor nest sites. Data from specimens found are placed in a GIS database to determine species range and population health. In 2007, staff implemented a GIS Exotic Plant mapping database, and in 2008, staff updated and increased the number of wildlife cameras in the park during large mammal monitoring.

The entire OHMVR Division HMS program recently had a scheduled audit conducted by UC Davis. Recommendations included changes to create more random sampling protocols and additional monitoring for invertebrates and bats. Most significantly, recommendations were made to more seamlessly integrate the findings of the monitoring program into SVRA management actions.

Vegetation Management

The primary goal of the Hungry Valley re-vegetation program is to rehabilitate sites which have been identified as a source of soil erosion (high soil hazard rating). Starting in fiscal year 2006-2007, a five-year plan[20] was placed in effect to revegetate areas impacted by OHVs in the trail riding area. This will include planting native plants grown in the park's own greenhouse and hydro-seeding areas to help the revegetation process.

Approximately 500 acres have been restored in Hungry Valley since 2004. The restoration budget varies from year to year, based on need. On average, 10,000 person hours a year are expended on restoration and invasive plant removal at Hungry Valley SVRA.

Invasive plants are a significant resource issue for Hungry Valley SVRA. Interstate 5 acts as a vector for invasive plants to invade the park. The five invasive pest plants of greatest concern for Hungry Valley SVRA are: Yellow Starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*), Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana*), Dalmatian Toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*), Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), and Perennial Pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*). All five species are within or along the edge of the Hungry Valley Native Grassland Management Area (NGMA) which is adjacent to Interstate 5. The value of this grassland habitat underscores the importance of controlling these invasive plants. In fiscal year 2005-2006 extensive work began to limit the spread and treat these infestations. To date, the spread of these plants is being controlled and some reduction in the acres infested has been measured through GIS mapping. However, eradication will require several more years of work.

Trail Management

One of the primary goals of Hungry Valley SVRA is to build and maintain a sustainable trail system. Maintenance of the trail system is critical to control erosion and provide an enjoyable riding environment. A robust monitoring and maintenance schedule is in place for all trails. A Trail Maintenance Plan,[21] which includes an Annual Trail

Condition Evaluation and quarterly inspections, insures that prioritized trail work is completed. Another key factor in trail maintenance is controlling off-trail OHV use. This activity is curtailed in the environmentally sensitive areas of Hungry Valley SVRA through visitor education, signage, and when necessary fencing.

If a section of a trail fails to meet the soil standard,[22] due to design or erosive conditions; the trail is relocated and redesigned to correct the problem. Damaged areas are then returned to their natural contours and revegetated with native vegetation. Examples of trails where this type of treatment has been applied include, but are not limited to, Rattler Trail, Edison Canyon, Middle Wall, Pipeline Road and South Wall.

Oceano Dunes SVRA – Monitoring

Every year, Oceano Dunes SVRA environmental science staff spends the great majority of its time and resources monitoring the nesting and fledgling (i.e., when chicks are deemed capable of flight and living on their own) success of the state- and federally-listed endangered California least terns and federally-listed threatened western snowy plover. For the five years from 2005 through 2009, the park has maintained a western snowy plover population of over 100 breeding birds. The site has also fledged an average of 64 birds per year and has achieved a five-year fledge rate of greater than one fledgling per breeding male (average = 1.1). The USFWS has established a breeding recovery goal of one bird fledged per breeding male for western snowy plover (USFWS 2007); the SVRA has thus exceeded this goal. Through this program, the Department has been able to demonstrate that it is promoting the recovery of snowy plovers at Oceano Dunes SVRA.

The California least tern has also achieved strong nest and fledgling success at Oceano Dunes SVRA. From 2005 through 2009, breeding adult populations ranged from a low of 25 pairs to a high of 55 (CDPR 2009). During this same time period, the site has achieved an average fledge rate well in excess of one fledgling per breeding pair and produced more than 50% of all tern fledges recorded in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties.

In addition to the nesting and fledgling success information, the plover and tern management program has generated useful information on management of coastal strand (i.e., sandy beach) resources. Since 2007, staff has contracted with the University of California Santa Barbara to

study the impacts of OHV recreation on the insects that feed on surf cast kelp. The beach invertebrates are an important food supply for western snowy plovers, and there was a concern that food availability could be a limiting factor in breeding success. Through this work, staff has initiated management activities designed to assist in the recovery of beach invertebrate communities through the addition of invertebrates and augmentation of nearshore areas with beach wrack (surf cast kelp). The research is on-going with results still being analyzed and not available at the time of this report. However, preliminary analysis indicates the management activities are having a positive impact on beach invertebrate communities, possibly contributing to the breeding success of plovers on site.

Park staff conducts fisheries surveys of Arroyo Grande Creek on a quarterly basis to document trends of native fish populations. These surveys have recorded important trends in species like the federally-listed endangered tidewater goby and the threatened steelhead trout. One notable observation from these surveys was the changes in tidewater goby populations associated with upstream water supply issues. Tidewater goby were found in the Arroyo Grande Creek estuary in 2006. They had been occasionally reported from the site, but were thought to be extirpated (locally extinct). Goby were found in subsequent surveys, and there was strong evidence of breeding activity. In 2008 and again in 2009, drought conditions coupled with upstream domestic and agriculture water use caused the estuary to completely dry up. Tidewater goby were thought to be extirpated from the estuary in 2009 but were found in small numbers in 2010. It is unknown if goby recolonized the estuary from adjacent sites or if the population persisted in the estuary naturally. As a result of this information on tidewater goby, staff has renewed efforts to become more involved in watershed issues, advocating for more water and engaging in existing watershed planning efforts, to guarantee a consistent supply of water for wildlife.

In 2009, Oceano Dunes SVRA also entered into a three-year contract with the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District to better assess water quality in Oso Flaco Lake. This effort will generate useful information on nutrient and sediment loading into the lake, including more data on the source, nature, and extent of the contaminants. Analysis of this data is in the early stages, and results are considered preliminary at this time.

In 2009, Oceano Dune SVRA entered into a two-year contract with the Department of Water Resources Environmental Site Assessment Section to conduct water quality and soils contaminant

surveys of the SVRA. Analysis of this data is in early stages, and results are considered preliminary at the time of this report.

Oceano Dunes SVRA also conducts annual HMS monitoring that includes monitoring of vegetation, shoreline birds, terrestrial birds, and herpetological resources. Surveys are also conducted for small and large mammals, but not on an annual basis. Results from the annual HMS monitoring are difficult to interpret because of the natural variation in a dynamic dune system. Using the current HMS methodology, it is difficult to distinguish recreation and other human-caused impacts from natural population variation.

Based upon field investigations, every year, Oceano Dunes SVRA environmental scientists implement a major (more than a few acres) and several minor restoration projects to control sand movement and maintain the habitat values of the vegetated islands, wetlands, Oso Flaco Lake, and other sensitive resources located within or adjacent to the open camping and riding area of the park. Over time, these areas can become inundated with shifting sands. Since 2004, Oceano Dunes SVRA has restored approximately 140 acres of actively shifting sand dune. Park staff runs an active greenhouse operation producing over 20,000 native plants per year to install in restoration areas.

Some recent restoration efforts include the 2007 “40 Acre Wood” restoration project where 28 acres of active sand sheet was revegetated with native dune species. This project helped control the movement of sand into Oso Flaco Lake. Additionally, restoration projects have been completed at the Maidenform (2008), Table Top (2006), and Pipeline (2009) vegetated islands. Monitoring plots are being established in these restoration areas to demonstrate the success of these projects and the recovery of these restored areas to support the full complement of native plant species.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA and Heber Dunes SVRA – Monitoring

Monitoring for habitat and presence of special-status species is a major component of the Ocotillo Wells District Resource Management Program and is conducted at both SVRAs. Protocols for most monitoring surveys have been adapted over the last decade to improve sampling numbers. Monitoring protocols are designed to collect data that can be used to develop adaptive management responses to manage resources in a sustainable fashion.

The flat-tailed horned lizard, a CDFG species of special concern found within Ocotillo Wells SVRA, is the subject of a multi-agency conservation agreement with a management strategy that includes a substantial monitoring component. For the last four summer seasons park staff has been utilizing an occupancy protocol. This species is also often observed during the twice yearly herpitile survey portion of the HMS. Data regarding when and where individual lizards are found become part of the developing GIS database for the park.

The HMS is completed on as many as 24 habitat monitoring plots for vegetation, herpitiles, large mammals, birds, and small mammals once or twice a year. Four of these plots are located in Heber Dunes SVRA; the remainder are in Ocotillo Wells SVRA. The expansion of plots over the next five years, especially replicates and controls, is a goal for this program.

Beginning in 2004, increased funding has enabled the District to expand the resource program through increased staffing and monitoring. Reptile monitoring has increased in frequency going from two one-week surveys on a limited number of plots to two three-week surveys on twice as many plots. Flat-tailed horned lizard surveys have been expanded to cover the number of plots recommended by the Interagency Coordinating Committee. Additionally, vegetation surveys are done on a regular schedule, and bird surveys are better synchronized from year to year. The remote wildlife camera program at Ocotillo Wells SVRA has been expanded, and some areas of the park have been revegetated.

Over time, habitat monitoring at the District has provided an inventory of species and habitats and aided in the design of special-status species monitoring protocols, such as flat-tailed horned lizard and Colorado fringe-toed lizard at Ocotillo Wells SVRA. This analytical process will guide management decision-making to determine which OHV use patterns may be sustainable and where changes in current management patterns are needed.

Natural Resource Management Challenges and Resolutions

One resource concern at both parks is invasive exotic plants. The three plants of greatest concern at Ocotillo Wells SVRA are tamarisk, Russian thistle, and Sahara mustard. At Heber Dunes SVRA, the primary species of concern is the invasive salt cedar species of tamarisk. The noxious weed program goal is complete elimination of the invasive tamarisk species where clear habitat values predominate. However, as discussed above, recognition must also be given to the role of tamarisk species at Heber Dunes SVRA for shade, dust, and wind control benefits. This species is prevalent throughout all major and some minor washes in Ocotillo Wells SVRA and various locations throughout Heber Dunes SVRA. Control and elimination requires ongoing cutting and spraying over a period of years. A contract has been initiated with five phases of cut and spray beginning in 2010.

Five invasive wildlife species have been found at Ocotillo Wells SVRA: Eurasian collared doves, house sparrows, European starlings, rock pigeons, and American turkeys. There are currently no standardized methodologies to eliminate these species, except the turkey. Turkey control has not been pursued because turkeys have only been encountered once and do not appear to be spreading into the park at this time. Invasive wildlife at Heber Dunes SVRA includes numerous bird species not known to breed at the park—house mice, feral cats, and feral dogs.

Environmental staff has observed significant loss of vegetation, soil, and general habitat integrity in some sampled habitats. Park management and staff are concerned about these developments and will continue to survey, gather monitoring information, and review various corrective strategies. One strategy that could be employed to minimize such impacts in this area would be to confine the recreation to designated routes. However, converting Ocotillo Wells to a “trails only” area would be a significant departure from the current management approach and would be difficult to achieve from a physical project level. A trails only area and enclosure plan has been proposed for a portion of Heber Dunes SVRA and is being considered as part of the General Plan/EIR review for the park. At Ocotillo Wells, use questions such as designation of formal camping areas and trail corridors and routes will also be considered as part of the general planning processes currently under way. Regulatory agency comments and involvement

throughout these processes will assist efforts to protect natural resource values while providing for visiting public needs.

As part of an effort to improve the existing trail network, Ocotillo Wells has assembled a trails management team to work in collaboration with the environmental review team. The development of a dedicated trails team has allowed the development of staff with specific skills and experience related to sustainable trail design and maintenance.

The Ocotillo Wells District education and interpretation program has been strengthened during the past two years and continues to provide a variety of programs to educate visitors about recreation, resources, and the importance of the visitor's role in resource protection and sustainable OHV opportunities. This past season over 50,000 visitors participated in Ocotillo Wells' public outreach program. Interpretation and education programming has been augmented in all aspects of park operations, including placing informational signage. Brochures for the flat-tailed horned lizard, guides to wildflowers and reptile species, park newsletter, as well as interpretive events at various locations and times with varied themes, have all been implemented in all areas of park management, primarily at Ocotillo Wells SVRA. To analyze the effectiveness of the education program in protecting park resources, continued monitoring is taking place at various locations within Ocotillo Wells SVRA. The placement of information signs at restoration sites and enclosures is now standard practice.

Restoration

Since 2004, several fence enclosures were constructed for various restoration and monitoring projects at Ocotillo Wells SVRA. Currently plans include rotational closures and subsequent restoration activities for several habitats, including one at Heber Dunes SVRA. The majority of restoration activities to date involve closure of mesquite dune habitat.

The largest fence project took place in 2006 and 2007, when monitoring had determined the mesquite dune habitat at Barrel Springs could not sustain vehicle recreation. This was due to the soil/plant interdependency and fragility in relation to wind erosion that regularly occurs at the park. Closing the area was part of a larger program to enclose all mesquite dune habitat areas. Barrier

fencing has proven successful with substantial improvement documented in annual plant production and perennial plant recruitment. This restoration east of Devil's Slide has been used as a restoration model throughout the park where other mesquite dune habitat occurs.

Additional mesquite dune habitat fences have been constructed in Morton Dunes, and Barrel Springs. These areas were experiencing habitat loss and disturbance of cultural features. All areas contain educational signs explaining the importance of these areas.

Current restoration efforts include a planting program using plants raised at the park greenhouse facility. Planting projects include areas already enclosed as well as various wash and natural spring areas where plants are likely to encounter natural water or flooding events. Success at spring sites has been low and at open riding areas very low, but plants regularly watered in enclosures have done fairly well.

Monitoring of restoration projects occurs on an annual basis at those plots established in earlier enclosures, and monitoring of plantings occurs several times a month to track progress. Areas are checked for vegetative cover and diversity as part of the regular HMS. If action needs to be taken on a monitored area, an action plan is developed and implemented for the area in need. For example, both the Barrel Springs and County Line enclosures experienced severe erosion and undermining of dune structure in the areas left open for through traffic in between adjacent areas. Once those paths of travel were closed to continued vehicular use, natural sand deposition allowed for some progress toward a more natural erosion regime.

The following are specific examples of recent efforts:

North End: This past year due to a significant loss of plants in the mesquite area near Highway 22 and Holly Road, a fence was constructed that closed off 12 acres of riding and is allowing the dune habitat to reestablish itself. Staff is continuing to monitor and educate the public about the fragility of dune habitat.

Mesquite Cultural Site: There is now data that indicates the presence of a complete cultural village with many burial sites in the east part of Ocotillo Wells. This area is mostly BLM property that is managed by Ocotillo Wells under an MOU. Park staff is working with the Native American community and BLM to fence portions of the village.

Gas Domes: In 2008 park staff fenced a large area at Gas Domes to prevent erosion and disturbance of natural gas domes.

Prairie City SVRA – Monitoring

For the past several years, park environmental scientists have conducted annual surveys measuring various aspects of the park's ecosystem, including vegetation, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals. The goal of these monitoring efforts is to establish an inventory of the various species and measure changes in their abundance and composition over time. The data are then used to develop and implement adaptive management practices in the park, such as trail reroutes or restoration projects. The surveys have found the park is visited or home to over 93 species of birds. Of particular interest are the common yellowthroat, lark sparrow, and Lewis's woodpecker, populations which, according to the Audubon Society, are considered to be in decline, but continue to show strong populations within the SVRA.

In addition, these survey efforts have revealed and confirmed the presence of several special-status species, including the federally-threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle and vernal pool fairy shrimp, the state-threatened Swainson's hawk, and two California species of special concern, the western spadefoot toad and the western pond turtle.

The vernal pool area, which is closed to OHV use, had previously received cattle grazing when the land was used for ranching purposes many years ago, which no longer occurs. Without the influence of management techniques such as grazing to control invasive plants, the vernal pool habitat has degraded.[23] Additional surveys will be needed to determine whether the population of fairy shrimp has declined in recent years and, if so, whether it is due to changing climatic conditions or the increase in pool vegetation by invasive species. Park staff is currently working on a vernal pool vegetation management plan, particularly focusing on controlling or eradicating the invasive vegetation. This plan will be available as a reference once approved. The actions recommended by the vernal pool vegetation management plan should reduce the amount of invasive weeds, especially Medusahead and yellow starthistle affecting the vernal pools.

Within the OHV use area, however, managing invasive vegetation, especially starthistle, has proven to be a greater challenge. Starthistle is

a difficult invasive weed to eradicate due to its aggressive growth habits and minimal nutrient requirements. Park environmental scientists would like to implement biological controls for starthistle, such as insects or molds, as they feel it is the most practical application to combat the problem. Grazing may also be an option and is currently under review. Large scale herbicide use is expensive, and controlled burns can be inconsistent from year to year due to County air quality restrictions. Herbicide use is not the preferred method since the park is home to several special-status plants and animals. Biological controls may thus be the best option to manage the starthistle.

An additional area of concern is the stand of blue oaks located in the southeastern portion of the park. Although the existing mature trees are quite healthy and provide habitat for dozens of birds and small mammals, the regeneration of oaks has been slow and minimal. This may be due to OHV activities, climatic changes, or the lack of acorn production by the oaks. Due to on-going restoration activities, such as fencing and planting of over 200 saplings, new oak trees have begun to take hold. Annual monitoring of their growth shows a 30% success rate, and staff is hopeful these trees will continue to thrive.

Due to a fairly high staff turnover, trail and soil monitoring activities have been inconsistent through the years. Park management has been able to address staffing issues in recent years, allowing implementation of the new soil standard and monitoring systems. With the 2008 Soil Conservation Standard in place, a GIS database has recently been developed to assess and monitor roads, trails, and sediment basins. This information has allowed staff to develop more effective plans for restoration activities, design adaptive maintenance techniques which improve trail tread, and implement projects which decrease sediment generation and increase erosion control.

Restoration Work Completed at the SVRAs

In the past four years, the challenges facing land managers have been particularly difficult due to increasing demands for managed OHV areas providing high-quality recreational experiences, balanced with the protection of resources. As the demand for areas available for OHV use continues to increase, the impacts to the land can be significant. In some instances, the impacts are due to overuse while in other areas it may be due to ingress into closed areas. Superintendents and Environmental Scientists must work closely to balance the provision of OHV opportunities while protecting the environment. Overall, restoration projects in the SVRAs have greatly enhanced the health of the park's ecosystem and density of habitat.

The purpose for restoration is to repair and restore habitat that has been impacted by OHV activity in order to provide appropriate ecological balance between the provision of OHV recreation and sustaining a viable species composition. Restoration is one of many responses to the ongoing monitoring of resources.

Each SVRA is unique in the recreational opportunities it provides and the natural resource environment in which the recreational activity takes place. Equally, each SVRA is different in the impacts the habitat can withstand. When it is determined that conservation or management options are not sufficient to address OHV impacts on habitats or soils, affected areas within the SVRAs are closed for restoration of the land as nearly as possible to its natural condition.

These restoration activities may include:

- Recontouring land or drainage areas to disperse concentrated flows, reduce hydraulic energy, and prevent soil transport.
- Installing water control features such as check dams to slow water.
- Revegetating the area with native plants by hand or by hydro-seeding.

Although the SVRAs are diverse and complex, and restoration solutions and plans are unique to the given park and region, many of the same techniques used to ensure a restoration project is successful are used throughout the SVRAs. Techniques include but are not limited to:

- Closing of the area with protective fencing, barriers, or rock to prevent intrusion.
- Planting programs often with plants raised from SVRA greenhouse facilities.
- Determining methods for watering plants (when appropriate) which have yet to be fully established.
- Monitoring the area to ensure restoration project success. This could be once a week, several times a month, or even annually for established restoration areas.

Examples of successful restoration projects at the SVRAs are below:

- At Carnegie, due to the steep terrain and dense vegetation, trail crews and environmental scientist staff have collaborated regarding the implementation of restoration work. This work required tooling out large ruts, re-contouring trail tread, and installing water control features. Significant restoration projects that have greatly enhanced the health of the park's ecosystem and density of habitat include Rocky Knob, Dead Cow Canyon, and Los Osos.
- At Carnegie, the Los Osos drainage area had been experiencing incising. In 2009, crews re-contoured the drainage to help disperse the concentrated flow, installed several rock check dams to slow the water, and hydroseeded the uphill slopes to help with infiltration.
- At Prairie City, park staff installed protective fencing around a sensitive stand of native blue oaks. Staff planted seedlings and will continue to collect acorns and plant oaks in the area.
- At Hollister Hills, sediment depositing into Tule Lake was alleviated upon completion of a two-year, three-part restoration project. Areas were closed, fencing installed in areas where trespass was a concern, and the entire watershed was carefully revegetated by hand using seeds that had been cultivated from native plants.
- At Hollister Hills, a project involved recontouring the drainages in and around the GP track, strategically placing several hundred tons of boulders and revegetating the area, successfully dispersing the hydraulic energy and preventing soil transport into the watershed.
- At Oceano Dunes, staff has undertaken one large restoration project every year since the early 1990s to manage sand movement into this native dune and dune scrub habitat. Since 2004, approximately 140 acres of actively eroding sand dunes have been restored.
- At Oceano Dunes in 2007, a restoration project resulted in the restoration of 28 acres of active sand sheet. This project helps control the movement of sand into Oso Flaco Lake.
- At Hungry Valley, park staff focused on the restoration of a hill climb. Recontouring of the slope, rehabilitation, hydroseeding, and fencing were used to successfully complete this project.
- At Hungry Valley in 2007, a major erosion control project was carried out on the stretch of Maxey Wash behind Smith Forks Campground. The wash was hard surfaced with carefully placed 3-foot to 5-foot diameter boulders, which eliminated soil loss and erosion adjacent to the campground.
- At Ocotillo Wells, the largest fencing and restoration project took place in 2006 and 2007, when a large area of mesquite dune habitat was enclosed east of Devil's Slide road to Wolfe Well Road and in the dunes northeast of Benson Lake after showing signs of serious degradation due to OHV activity.
- Current restoration efforts include a planting program using plants raised at the park greenhouse facility.

Monitoring in USFS and BLM Areas

Habitat Management Program

USFS and BLM grantees with projects involving ground disturbing activities must implement a WHPP, known as a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) under the OHMVR Grants Program (PRC Section 5090.53). The Division developed the WHPP/HMP over several years of working with USFS and BLM environmental staff. The forms, which were largely finalized in 2005, are incorporated into the Grants Program Regulations.

The HMP requires grantees to identify special-status plant and animal species that could be at risk from OHV recreation and monitor for potential impacts to those species. As an adaptive management plan, the HMP includes management objectives and actions to address the risk, success criteria to gauge the effectiveness of each management action, and "triggers" for management change. Each grant application cycle, grantees report on the results of the previous year's HMP, including any management actions taken based on monitoring results.

USFS Monitoring

Within California, USFS Region 5 includes all or part of 19 national forests, totaling approximately 20 million acres, each characterized by unique and diverse natural resources. All of these forests have received Grants Program funding sometime during the 2004-2009 period. Of the more than 8,000 vascular plant species occurring in California, well over half are known to occur on national forest lands.

Monitoring for wildlife, fish, and plants has been accomplished through a tiered approach, consisting of local monitoring, including HMPs, focused studies, and regional monitoring. The focus is generally on local monitoring to ensure habitats are maintained and protection measures are implemented. In addition, four focused studies were funded through the OHMVR Grant Program to assess the effects of OHV use on northern spotted owl, northern goshawk, American marten, and the vertebrate assemblage (including prey of these three species). Through 2005, there was an additional focus on developing and testing a regional monitoring protocol that would supplement the local monitoring. However,

beginning in 2006, it was determined that the focused studies should be completed before fully implementing the regional monitoring. Each of these programs is described in more detail below.

Local Monitoring: Local monitoring is conducted at the forest level to ensure that the standards, guidelines, and protection measures identified in WHPPs/HMPs are being implemented on the ground. Three checklists are used to focus this monitoring: the Wildlife Habitat Monitoring Checklist, the Over Snow Vehicle Monitoring Checklist, and the OHV Stream Channel Crossing Wildlife Habitat Checklist. Examples of items monitored include OHV use off designated routes, widening of routes or stream crossings, and impacts of vehicles on vegetation. In addition, many forests conduct inventories of species/habitat and monitor threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Some forests also use photo points in conjunction with the checklists.

Field personnel complete the checklists, which are then reviewed to determine if there are any indications of potential problems. If needed, a field visit to the trail segment is scheduled to review the problem, and a team then reviews the problem area and determines what correction actions, if any, is needed. For some problems, such as unauthorized (user created) routes, corrective actions (closure, signing, limited operating periods, etc.) are taken without the need for additional analysis.

Focused Studies: During 2004 to 2009, the OHMVR Grants Program helped fund four focused studies, each designed to address specific management questions for species at risk and determine if OHV/OSV activity caused any adverse impacts. Of the four studies, the American marten study has been completed. The other three will be completed in 2010. All four are described in more detail below.

American Marten Focused Study: The marten focused study was finalized in 2007. This study evaluated the effects of OHV/OSVs on American martens by comparing marten occupancy rates and probabilities of detection in areas where OHV/OSV use is legal and encouraged (Use Areas) and in designated wilderness areas where OHV/OSV use is prohibited (Non-Use Areas). The study was conducted in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and Sierra National Forest using remote sound level meters, track stations, remote camera stations, and field observations. The study also assessed the potential effects of OHVs/OSVs on marten sex ratios and circadian (e.g., 24-hours) patterns of activity. The study found that martens were ubiquitous in Use and Non-Use Areas, and there was no effect of OHV/OSV use on marten occupancy or probability of detection. It is possible, however, that OHVs/OSVs have effects, alone or in concert with other activities (e.g., timber harvest), that were not quantified in this study. The two study areas also

had low OHV/OSV use levels impacting only a small percentage of a marten's home range. The application of these results to other locations is thus only appropriate if OHV/OSV use at the other locations is no greater than reported in this study.

Northern Goshawk Focused Study: This study, conducted on the Plumas National Forest, evaluates OHV/OSV use and noise around Northern goshawk nests and nest stands and uses experimental manipulations designed to evaluate the bird's sensitivity to direct disturbance by OHV/OSVs during the nesting, post-fledging, and winter (non-breeding) seasons. The study will estimate the relationship between goshawk reproductive success, post-fledging survival rates, nesting behavior, and likelihood of nesting relative to OHV/OSV use and noise. Vertebrate Assemblage Focused Study. This study, conducted on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Sierra National Forest, and Stanislaus National Forest, assesses the effects of OHV use and roads on forest songbird communities, forest-associated small mammal species and communities, and forest-associated bird and mammalian carnivores, including prey-base implications for top carnivores. The study pairs OHV use areas with similar areas not receiving OHV use, within which habitat and recreational use were measured and species surveys were conducted.

Northern Spotted Owl Focused Study: The objectives of this study, conducted on the Shasta-Trinity and Mendocino National Forests, are to: (1) describe northern spotted owl stress levels, behavior, and nesting success and OHV use at selected northern spotted owl nest and/or roost sites over time; (2) determine whether OHV use affects northern spotted owl stress levels, behavior, or nesting success, and, whether observed effects vary with reproductive state over time; and (3) determine the need for disturbance-specific management considerations to minimize potential adverse effects of OHV use on spotted owls that reside on national forest system lands. Experimental treatments were used to expose northern spotted owls to simulated OHV use events, and stress levels were measured via corticosterone analysis of collected scat.

Regional Monitoring: Regional monitoring is designed to assess randomly selected OHV use sites on national forests in California. Each OHV use site is paired with a similar non-OHV use site to interpret conditions observed at OHV use sites. At each of the sites, OHV use, habitat, and plant and wildlife species are monitored, similar to the methodology used in the Vertebrate

Assemblage focused study. The regional monitoring protocol was pilot-tested for summer and winter seasons; additional data were collected in association with the Vertebrate Assemblage Focused Study. This project was not funded between 2006-2009 because of limited funding and a priority on the focused studies. Analyses and conclusions from the Vertebrate Assemblage Focused Study will be used to finalize the protocol, and phased implementation onto the 19 national forest in California is anticipated once the focused studies are complete.

BLM Monitoring

Natural Resource Conditions and Monitoring

With consistent funding support since 2003 from the Division, the BLM has been able to initiate long-term monitoring of several guilds (ecologically related species) of wildlife species and a number of rare plants. Indicator species, or guilds of similar species, serve as indicators for "ecosystem health," and they provide BLM with a report card on the flora and fauna on OHV recreation lands. These species, or guilds of species, can furnish the most information about responses by species in OHV-recreation landscapes. BLM focuses its OHV monitoring principally in the California deserts and the Inner Coast Range. Focal species are: migratory bird species, resident raptors, bats, desert lizards, desert tortoise, and foothill yellow-legged frog. Vegetation communities of greatest concern where OHV recreation is popular are desert dunes, creosote scrub, and Sonoran Desert thorn woodlands. The BLM staff has also studied individual plant species such as the Mecca woody-aster, native only to the Meccacopia Special Recreation Area just above the northern end of the Salton Sea.

All monitoring supported by the Division on BLM OHV-recreation lands takes place according to detailed written protocols. Project managers train monitoring crews in the field to make sure crew members have the requisite skills, and that results are comparable year to year. With multiple years of consistently reproduced data, BLM biologists can analyze trend data and adjust management to safeguard wildlife and their habitat.

In the coming years, the BLM is expecting to give greater attention to mapping and monitoring non-native invasive plants in OHV recreation areas. More remains to be learned about the impacts of OHV riding on wildlife and vegetation, especially as the spectrum of available vehicle types expands. BLM will work with OHV recreation partners to ensure that OHVs do not become major vectors in the spread of weeds.

Future collaboration between the Division and the federal agencies could ensure the agencies are monitoring similar variables and species under uniform protocols. In this way, interagency efforts can build a stronger base of information about wildlife responses to OHV-riding environments in the varied ecosystems of California.

Report Requirement No. 5

Actions taken by the division and department since the last program report to discourage and decrease trespass of off-highway motor vehicles on private property.

Overview

Preventing trespass onto private property and other areas closed to OHV recreation is one of the central objectives of the OHMVR Program. The OHMVR Program was founded on the principle that providing "effectively managed areas and adequate facilities for the use of off-highway vehicles and conservation and enforcement are essential for ecologically balanced recreation" (PRC Section 5090.02 (b)). When adequate areas for OHV recreation are provided, people are far less likely to trespass onto private lands and closed areas.

Ensuring enthusiasts recreate in legal, managed areas requires:

- Providing appropriate areas which are readily accessible and provide an interesting recreational experience
- Maintaining areas in good order
- Educating the public on how to discourage and prevent OHV trespass, the location of legal recreational opportunities, and the negative impacts which result from recreating in unmanaged or closed areas
- Enforcement of applicable laws

Providing Appropriate Areas Which Are Readily Accessible

The popularity of OHV recreation has continued to rise, while the areas available to legally recreate have decreased over time.

Acquisition of new OHV opportunity is a key component of the legislative intent for the OHMVR Program to keep pace with increasing demand for recreational opportunity. Replacing these lost opportunities with new areas has not kept pace with the growing demand for additional OHV recreation.

One notable exception was the development and opening of the Renz property in Hollister Hills SVRA. This area had been purchased in 1989. After extensive study and planning, a trail system was constructed which provides a high level of rider interest while at the same time minimizing

impacts to the environment. Trails were also constructed to minimize sound impacts to neighboring property owners. In 2007, the California Biodiversity Council toured the newly opened trail system and considered it a model for future OHV recreation developments.

Redirection of trust funds as a result of budgetary and fiscal problems ($90 million in 2008-2009 and $22 million in 2009-2010) has exacerbated the problem by tying up funds that could otherwise be directed towards acquisition and development of new OHV recreation opportunities.

Maintaining Areas in Good Order

Maintaining trails and areas in good order is important not only to prevent environmental degradation, but also to keep OHV areas from becoming undesirable to recreationists.

The OHMVR Program has increased the amount of grant funding available for trail maintenance and repairs significantly in recent years. In 2006-2007, only $326,800 was directed to trail projects. By 2008-2009, that amount has risen to approximately $7.9 million.

Educating the Public

The Division has taken an active role in educating the public on ways to discourage and reduce OHV trespass. Staff from the Division has been invited to, and participated in, meetings and conferences in local communities who have concerns about illegal trespass and impacts in their communities from OHV use. For instance, when residents from Yucca Valley reported to the Commission their concerns regarding OHV trespass occurring in their community, Division staff visited the area and met with local residents to discuss the issue. Topics such as appropriate signage, identification of property boundaries, and ways to increase law enforcement patrols were discussed with residents, land managers, and local law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement personnel from the Division also assisted local law enforcement agencies in patrolling the area and contacting OHV recreationists to inform them about appropriate areas in which to recreate.

Additional educational efforts to discourage and decrease trespass on private property have been taken by the Commission and Division. These outreach efforts are highlighted under the “conflict of use” section of Report Requirement No. 2.

The importance of education was acknowledged in SB 742 by the creation of a specific category in the Grants Program dedicated to Education and Safety. This category receives 5% of available grant funds. Education projects competing for funding in this category must include a comprehensive education curriculum that teaches, among other things, respect for private property and environmental responsibility.

Enforcement of Applicable Laws

Active law enforcement is an essential element in the effort to discourage and decrease trespass by OHV enthusiasts onto private lands. There will always be a need for law enforcement activities to address those who are uninformed of, or choose to ignore, laws relating to responsible OHV recreation.

As referenced on pages 93 and 94, the OHMVR Division has taken direct action to address concerns raised by private property owners about inappropriate and illegal use of individuals recreating on OHVs.

Financial Support of Law Enforcement Efforts

The provision of law enforcement patrols to enforce OHV laws and prevent trespass into private lands and closed areas has, at times, been made a low priority by agencies who could not afford to commit funds to the effort. Two sources of OHV funding are available to law enforcement agencies from the OHMVR Program: In-Lieu funds and Grants from the OHV Trust Fund.

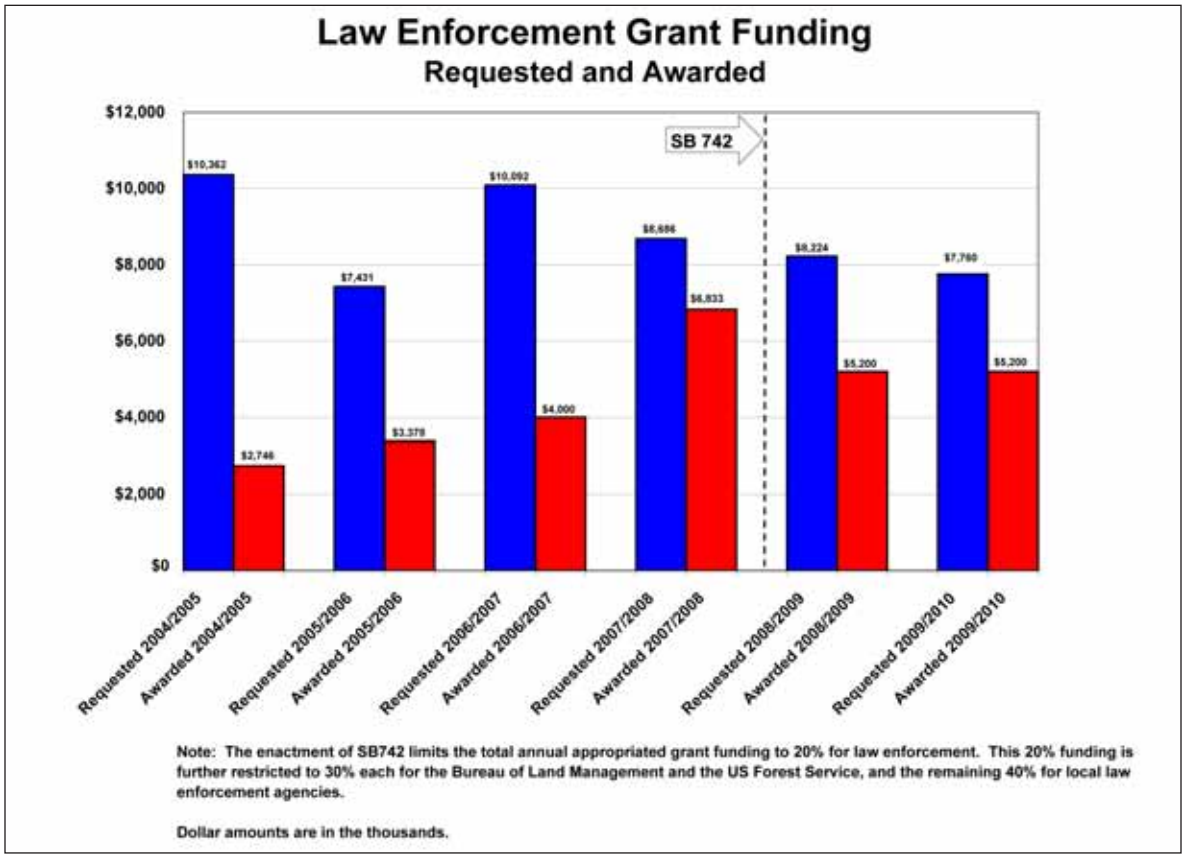
Change in In-Lieu Funding Distributions

A $4 fee is imposed for the issuance or renewal of identification for each off-highway motor vehicle subject to identification [registration] in-lieu of all taxes on value levied for state or local purposes (CVC Section 38230). These in-lieu funds are to be used by local agencies to provide OHV opportunities and facilities, including law enforcement efforts. In-lieu funds are now directed to counties based on how much OHV activity occurs in the county. These funds were previously distributed based on the population of a county. This resulted in some counties with very little OHV enforcement needs receiving large amounts of funding based on their high population (e.g., San Francisco). By directing funds to counties based on the level of OHV activity, counties with smaller populations that are visited by large numbers of OHV recreationists (e.g., Imperial County) are now receiving a more appropriate share of the available funds.

Grant Funding

Grant funding has now been stabilized to provide improved certainty for local and federal law enforcement efforts from year to year.

Due to the competitive nature of the grant application process, law enforcement agencies were never certain from year-to-year if they would be successful in securing funding from the OHMVR Grant Program.



This issue was addressed in SB 742 by changing the way in which law enforcement grant funds are distributed. Law enforcement funds are now distributed on a non-competitive basis proportionate to the off-highway motor vehicle needs under each entity's jurisdiction. Also, the level of funding was set at 20% of grant funds available in each grant cycle, thus creating a predictable and consistent level of funding support for law enforcement activities. These changes ensure that each agency that demonstrates a need for addressing OHV related issues can rely upon receiving some consistent level of funding every grant cycle. While this will provide a level of stability in OHV law enforcement programs, requests from law enforcement agencies indicate that funding available is far short of the level needed to fully address law enforcement needs statewide.

Division Leadership Role in Coordinating Enforcement Issues

The Division Public Safety Team works statewide with counties and federal agencies to provide tools, techniques and assistance to help prevent the occurrence of trespass. Law enforcement officers provide expertise and training in the applicability of OHV laws. Where OHV trespass and violations of closed areas have become particularly problematic for local agencies to address, the Division Public Safety Team provides assistance in planning focused enforcement actions,

and supplementing local law enforcement staff by directly participating in enforcement actions to detour and apprehend violators.

OHMVR Division Supervising Rangers provided OHV Law Enforcement training to USFS and BLM while conducting field reviews associated with OHMVR Law Enforcement grants. Other allied agencies such as Sheriff Departments and local Police Departments participated in these training sessions as well. There were approximately 10 training sessions in northern California and 10 sessions in southern California in 2009-2010. OHV Law Enforcement orientation was provided to USFS Forest Protection Officers during their annual training sessions. In total there were 7 hosting agencies, 76 hours of instruction, 154 students trained involving 12 Sheriff Departments, 8 National Forests, 5 BLM Field Areas, and 2 Police Departments.

January 1, 2005, sound requirements were amended to incorporate stricter noise requirements for OHVs. State and federal officers, as well as other SVRA employees were instructed on sound testing using the J1287 test standard which is Measurement of Exhaust Sound Levels of Stationary Motorcycles. Since 2005, approximately 500 students have gone through this course and are actively monitoring sound emissions at race events, SVRAs, BLM, and USFS areas open to OHV use.

Training Provided to Local, State and Federal agencies:

Date	Hosting Agency	Hours	Students	Attending Agencies
4/28/2009	Madera County S/O	4	16	Madera S/O, USFS, F&G
5/27/2009	Plumas County S/O	4	16	Plumas S/O, Butte S/O, USFS, CHP, Oroville PD,USFS, CSP
10/26/2009	Inyo County S/O	40	15	Inyo S/O, USFS, Bishop PD
2/2/2010	Fresno County S/O	4	14	Fresno S/O, USFS,
3/17/2010	California State Parks OWSVRA	4	27	Imperial, San Diego & Riverside S/O, BLM, CSP
4/12/2010	BLM Barstow	4	4	BLM
4/14/2010	BLM Redding	4	21	USFS, BLM, Shasta S/O, Plumas S/O
5/11/2010	California State Parks HVSVRA	4	7	Kern S/O, CSP
5/11/2010	Trinity County S/O	4	19	Trinity S/O, USFS, F&G
6/2/2010	California State Parks PCSVRA	4	15	El Dorado S/O, USFS.F&G CSP
Totals:	**7 Hosting Agencies**	**76**	**154**	**12 Sheriff's Offices, 8 Forests, 5 BLM Areas and 2 Police Departments**

Report Requirement No. 6

Other relevant program-related environmental issues that have arisen since the last program report.

Green Initiatives

The OHMVR Commission is committed to supporting sustainable OHV recreation opportunities while at the same time reducing effects on the environment by encouraging environmentally responsible choices. Likewise, the Division is committed to becoming a leader in environmental responsibility and resource protection within the OHV community.

Accordingly, the Division fulfills its commitments through various means, including actively pursuing opportunities to implement its green program initiatives as outlined in its Strategic Plan. In addition, the Division is developing, analyzing, and implementing responsible green program management strategies and environmentally sustainable land management solutions. The Division is dedicated to efforts and actions related to improving technology, reducing use of fossil fuels, increasing energy efficiency, and enhancing the overall environmental sustainability of its operations.

The Division's efforts and on the ground strategies include the purchase of renewable energy and alternative fuels and vehicles, energy efficiency improvements for new and existing facilities, and the procurement of less energy intensive and more environmentally responsible goods and services. Moreover, the Division actively pursues actions to reduce its carbon footprint, greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), toxic substances, and waste from its operations. Ongoing research, strategies, and long-term goals include developing green specifications for equipment, facilities, and vehicles.

USFS Travel Management in California

In 2000-2001 through the Grants Program, the Division began awarding funding to individual forests for route designation. As OHV recreation continued to increase, the USFS recognized that the impacts from cross country travel on open forest lands throughout California were resulting in an unacceptable level of environmental damage. It became increasingly evident that a managed system of roads, trails, and areas was necessary on Forest Service lands.

In August 2003, the USFS entered into a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) with the Commission and the Division for the purpose of establishing a common goal to achieve route designation and the regulation of motorized vehicles within USFS managed lands in California.

In 2005, the USFS issued a national framework for local forests to designate a sustainable system of roads, trails, and areas for public motor vehicle use. In order to align with the new national framework, route designation became Travel Management.

Currently, the USFS in California is working through a Travel Management process. This process is the "first step" in implementing the national Travel Management Rule which is resulting in the publication of Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUMs) that identify the roads, trails, and areas open to public motor vehicle use on every national forest. The MVUMs are required to meet a national standard showing only designated roads, trails, and areas.

There are three parts to the Travel Management Rule: Subpart A (Administration of the Forest Transportation System), Subpart B (Designation of Roads, Trails and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use), and Subpart C (Use by Over Snow Vehicles). The National Forests have been working to complete Subpart B and have begun work on Subpart A.

National Forests throughout California collaborated with the public (both motorized and non-motorized recreationists) to identify roads, trails and areas for designation as part of the National Forest Transportation System.

Management decisions and MVUMs represent the first steps in the long process of implementing the Travel Management Rule to reduce the environmental impacts associated with public motor vehicle use on national forests, and develop a sustainable transportation system.

For the past seven years the Commission and Division, in collaboration with Region 5 of the USFS, have supported route inventorying and travel management planning through grant funding. To date approximately $12 million has been awarded through the cooperative agreement process.

The USFS recognizes that Travel Management planning will change the way that people access and experience National Forests. Nevertheless, this change must occur in order to provide long term OHV opportunities for OHV recreation, and for protection of natural and cultural resources.

Sixteen national forests have completed their Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). The remaining two forests are anticipated to have their Final EIS and ROD by the end of 2010.

Global Warming and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Commission shares concern over GHG emissions and recognizes the significant adverse impact that a changing climate will have on the state's environment. State and federal policies and regulations are being developed to reduce GHG emissions. In 2006 California's Global Warming Solutions Act (Assembly Bill (AB) 32) was passed. AB 32 recognizes the significant effects of GHG emissions and the threats to public health, natural resources, and the environment of California resulting from global warming. The Division and its SVRAs are committed to complying with AB 32 and other state, federal, and county policies and regulations concerning GHG emissions.

In keeping with the carbon emission reduction goals of AB 32, the Division's Strategic Plan outlines the following long-term objective: Using the 2009-2010 fiscal year as a baseline, achieve a 25% reduction in carbon footprint from management of the SVRAs by 2020. The Division is currently working with SVRA staff to implement strategies and solutions to achieve this goal.

Solar Development

In 2001, the Commission established a policy that new projects constructed in SVRAs were to incorporate renewable energy technology. The use of solar systems at some of the SVRAs is one of several strategies the SVRAs are using to reduce their carbon footprint. Some of the SVRAs are successfully meeting a portion of their electrical demand through on-site generation.

For example, in 2008 Prairie City SVRA installed a solar-electric system on the roofs of its ETC and the visitor services entrance station. The solar units come with real-time digital meters allowing Prairie City staff to monitor facility performance and track energy usage. Total power generated, peak day, and total CO_2 savings is recorded. The solar panels at Prairie City save over 14,000 KWH annually and, to date, over 62,000 pounds of CO_2 emissions have been saved due to facility energy upgrades. Not only do the solar panels generate over 100% of the electricity for the ETC, it off-sets the electric cost of other buildings in the park as well. Prairie City SVRA receives a credit each month on their electric bill.

Hungry Valley and Ocotillo Wells SVRAs are also using the benefits of solar panels to generate power for various park facilities within their SVRAs.

Wind Energy

Wind generated electrical power offers advantages and opportunities for the Division to reduce carbon footprint at the SVRAs. In looking at its portfolio of options to reduce its carbon footprint, staff at Ocotillo Wells SVRA is currently analyzing the feasibility of using wind turbines to produce energy to power several of its facilities. The goal is to use wind energy to offset power usage for as many buildings as possible. The wind generators being considered will produce energy for less than the average cost of electricity.

Alternative Fuel Vehicles

The last several years have seen an increase in development and use of alternative fuel OHVs. In addition, highway-legal vehicles designed for off-highway use are now being offered by many manufacturers in flex-fuel and hybrid configurations. Some manufacturers are now offering fully electric motorcycles and four-wheeled vehicles for off-highway use. These electric vehicles provide important opportunities for the public, the Division, and the future of OHV recreation. They produce minimal noise, use no fossil fuels directly, can be operated near urban areas with little sound disturbance to surrounding residents, and may present opportunities for development of OHV recreation areas in locations near urban centers.

California's Management Memo 06-03, Vehicle Purchase and Lease Policy, was released in 2006 as part of the state's efforts to meet ambient air quality standards and reduce the state fleet's petroleum use and impact on the environment. This policy applies to the purchase and lease of light-duty, alternative fuel, gasoline, hybrid-electric, sport utility, and four-wheel drive vehicles. The Division and its SVRAs meet and exceed this mandate.

The Division recently purchased a small fleet of electric dual-sport motorcycles and electric Recreational Utility Vehicles (RUVs). These vehicles provide fuel efficient, safe, and durable transportation for SVRA staff.

The purchase of these electric vehicles is an early step in the right direction and is in line with the Division's education efforts and long-term strategy to meet the Governor's mandates, fulfill its Strategic Plan goals, and reduce its own—as well as California's—carbon footprint. The Division, the SVRAs, and its staff are in an ideal position to promote zero emission OHVs to the public, and educate the public on reducing their own carbon footprint through such mechanisms as purchasing electric vehicles.

Air Quality

In recent years, concerns have been raised about the contribution of OHV recreation to diminished air quality. Potential air quality impacts include dust emissions, including particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) and fugitive dust. The Division, as well as federal and local agencies, is under legal mandate and increasing pressure to lessen these potential public health impacts where OHV activity contributes to the exceedence of the maximum allowable ambient air quality standards.

The Division is pursuing approaches for minimizing air quality impacts and working with industry and other public agencies to improve system performance of OHVs.

For example, Hollister Hills SVRA staff developed and implemented a noise and air quality monitoring program which provided baseline information on the sources and amount of dust and noise from OHV activities. Staff monitors dust impacts at locations selected in consultation with the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District. Sound monitoring is on-going with the assistance of park staff. This information is used for an adaptive management program, including a menu of possible management responses, if necessary, in areas identified as producing excessive dust or sound emissions.

Asbestos

The potential environmental hazards and associated public health and safety risks related to exposure to asbestos have gained increased regulatory attention throughout California. Correspondingly, OHV recreational opportunities are being adversely affected by land closures related to asbestos.

Political and scientific debate continues over the perceived versus actual health risks asbestos may present, as well as the validity of sampling and testing methods used during environmental analysis. Conflicting information, data, and research, as well as regulatory positions on the health risks associated with asbestos further promulgates conflict and uncertainty among agencies, stakeholders, and interested parties.

Recycling and Waste Reduction Programs

Since the early 2000s, the Division and its SVRAs have increased solid waste recycling and decreased the tonnage going to landfills. The overall recycling rate has increased from below 20% in 2000 to over 50% in each of the past several years. Staff specialists are researching and looking to further improve recycling and waste disposal opportunities including collecting and

evaluating data related to waste and consumption to raise the awareness of staff and visitors. In addition, several of the SVRAs have instituted unique recycling programs. For example:

Hungry Valley SVRA

Hungry Valley SVRA works with a local nonprofit to collect and recycle materials generated at the park. Volunteers from the local Boys and Girls Club collect the contents of the locking recycle bins located throughout the SVRA. The SVRA is provided with the weight information reported in accordance with AB 75 while the Boys and Girls Club gets to keep the proceeds from the recycling.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA

Many OHV enthusiasts head to Ocotillo Wells SVRA to celebrate Thanksgiving Day and participate in the tradition of deep frying a Thanksgiving turkey.

Ocotillo Wells staff collects the used cooking oil and recycles it to power their retrofitted Kubota RUV 1100. Staff drives the Kubota through the SVRA camping areas for trash pickup and onsite grease collection for much of the year. A grease recycling center is located next to the District Office for all visitors who wish to recycle their used vegetable oil.

Over Snow Vehicle Program Environmental Impact Report

To support motorized winter recreation, the Division supports a system of trailheads and groomed trails for snowmobile use.

The Division provides funding to 11 National Forests and three County Public Works/Road Departments for the operation, maintenance, and grooming of winter recreation trails and trailheads within California. The trails are maintained for snowmobile or Over Snow Vehicle (OSV) use; however, Nordic skiers, mushers (driving dog sleds) and snowshoers also use the parking areas and groomed trail systems.

The Division is in the process of completing the OSV Program EIR on the program. During the 2009-2010 winter season, the Division contracted with California State University Sacramento (CSUS) to conduct a pilot visitor survey at 11 trailheads to obtain accurate baseline information on winter trail use. In all, 4,123 individual visitors to the trailheads participated in the surveys.

The survey will continue through the 2013-2014 winter season at all 35 trailheads in the program. This effort serves both a continuation and expansion of data collection efforts that will provide the Division with critical systematic and complete data related to social and resource impacts of winter recreation in the OSV Program. The EIR will identify any significant environmental impacts of the over-snow activity and provide mitigation measures where feasible and appropriate to the given circumstances.

In 2009, the OHMVR Division began the process of modifying the OSV Program from an annual consideration to a 10-year funding commitment from 2010-2010. The OHMVR Division has prepared a Draft EIR for CEQA compliance. The Final EIR and Notice of Determination is expected to be completed in December 2010.

Geothermal Development at Ocotillo Wells SVRA

OHV opportunities on federal lands are under threat of closures and/or under severe use limitations as a result of conversions to renewable energy development including geothermal, wind, and solar. Decisions to allocate public lands for these activities threaten to reduce the amount of land available for OHV recreation and adversely impact other OHV areas in the state.

The BLM owns and manages lands throughout California, a portion of which are being explored and developed for geothermal resources. Over the last several years, the BLM has experienced an increase in demand for permits for energy development on their land. In response, the BLM has issued several permits for geothermal exploration, drilling, and field development in California.

Of interest to the Division is a major energy development project proposed in the Truckhaven lands near the Salton Sea, within the boundaries of Ocotillo Wells SVRA. The Division is concerned geothermal development projects in this area could negatively impact OHV recreational

opportunities as well as water resources and ecosystem habitats. Nevertheless, the Division continues to work in collaboration with BLM.

BLM is considering developing geothermal leases on 14,731 acres of lands in Ocotillo Wells SVRA. Geothermal development would restrict or reduce OHV access to certain areas of Ocotillo Wells SVRA during construction and operation of proposed geothermal wells.

As a result of these concerns, Ocotillo Wells SVRA staff are working closely with the BLM to assess impacts to OHV opportunity, and to evaluate and develop mitigation measures to minimize impacts on the OHV community. Ocotillo Wells SVRA staff are monitoring this situation closely, and encouraging the BLM to evaluate resource management plans, analyze environmental impacts, and conduct cost benefit analysis to determine the appropriateness of specific project sites.

Expansion of Twenty-Nine Palms Marine Corps Base

In 2008, the U.S. Navy announced its interest to expand the Twenty-nine Palms Marine Corp Base. The military expansion would include development into Johnson Valley OHV Open Area, located southeast of Barstow. In 2008, the Marine Corps submitted an Application for Withdrawal of Public Lands to the BLM that includes approximately 422,000 acres. The expansion would impact a significant portion of the 188,000 acre Johnson Valley Open Area and have considerable repercussions for the OHV community as Johnson Valley is the largest, and one of the most popular, OHV destinations in the county.

The Marine Corps is in the process of evaluating its options for base expansion. The BLM and the military are currently conducting an environmental analysis on the proposed use of the land. Expected completion of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is 2010, and the final EIS in 2011.

The Division is working closely with OHV recreation groups, BLM, and the military to assess alternatives and seek plausible solutions allowing for continued access to public lands for OHV recreation in the Johnson Valley OHV Open Area.

Urban Encroachment

Urbanization over the last ten years has created conflicts in many existing managed OHV recreation areas which were once far removed from housing and commercial development. As more homes and businesses are built in these remote areas, the remaining lands available for OHV opportunity are receiving increased use, potentially resulting in impacts to recreational

opportunity, the outdoors experience, and cultural and natural resources. Conflicts between OHV recreation use and neighboring land owners have become a management issue, particularly in relation to noise, dust, and trespass onto private land. OHV opportunities are increasingly threatened due to land use allocations and regulations, zoning laws, and increased concern for environmental impacts.

Rubicon Trail Assessment / Water Quality Management

The famous Rubicon Trail extends east from the Wentworth Springs area of El Dorado County through to the west side of Lake Tahoe. In 2009, the Rubicon Trail was threatened with potential closure due to a Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) for some sections which needed maintenance along the 12-mile trail located in El Dorado County.

The CAO charged that the trail appeared to be discharging excessive amounts of sediment to water bodies, and required trail segments in need of improvement to be identified. The identified segments were required to be improved to minimize sediment discharge, and the improvements were to be documented and reported to the Water Board.

Fortunately, nearly a year before the issuance of the CAO, the OHMVR Division requested the California Geological Survey (CGS) to conduct an assessment of the El Dorado County portion of the trail. CGS surveyed the trail using two different types of Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite signal receivers. The resulting trail data was downloaded into a Geographic Information System (GIS) database. CGS then resurveyed the trail, taking note of poor design features and areas of acute erosion, and proposing solutions for repairing these areas. This additional data was uploaded to the GIS Rubicon Trail database. The GIS database also contains the regional geology and soils coverage for the area.

El Dorado County now has an electronic map—a GIS database—of their portion of the Rubicon Trail. The map also contains an assessment which indicates where fixes to the trail are necessary to prevent erosion. Because the map is electronic, it can be updated as trail repairs are implemented, and digital photographs and text documents can be electronically appended to specific locations on the trail. The electronic map has become an essential tool for El Dorado County to meet its obligation under the CAO. Also—more importantly—it is an essential tool for the county to maintain the Rubicon Trail in a sustainable, responsible manner.

2010 Rubicon Trail Law Enforcement Project

Rubicon Trail user groups and other stakeholders expressed a strong desire to have an increased law enforcement presence on the trail to reduce violations and environmental damage. OHMVR Division staff met with officers of the Eldorado County and the El Dorado National Forest to discuss strategies for dealing with the law enforcement patrol issues on the trail. Following that strategic planning meeting, a pilot program with State Park Rangers was developed providing enforcement and education patrols on the trail throughout the 2010 summer season.

Officers spent the majority of their time on the trail educating the public about the combined effort by volunteers and multiple agencies to keep the Rubicon Trail open. The yellow bandana campaign, in which yellow bandanas were passed out encouraging people not to leave waste and toilet paper along the trail, was a great way to break the ice with many enthusiasts that normally may be hesitant to talk with law enforcement officers.

The officers working the Rubicon Trail all volunteered for the detail and had to apply for the opportunity. Those selected were chosen because they understood the "spirit of the law" approach to law enforcement, and excelled in community oriented policing.

Looking back on the pilot program, it is clear that there have been some great successes and also some challenges and changes needed if future operations are to continue. The biggest success of the entire program was the building of partnerships with the environmental community, off-highway motor vehicle user groups and colleagues from other agencies. The program succeeded because people are passionate about keeping the trail open, and offered their help and support to the officers on the trail.

Endnotes

1 Northern Service Center-Roy Martin. Clay Pit State Vehicular Recreation Area Wetland Delineation Report. January 2005.

2 TRA Environmental Sciences, Inc. Wetland Delineation Report. July 2008.

3 Northern Service Center-Roy Martin. Clay Pit State Vehicular Recreation Area Sensitive Plant Species Report. September 2005.

4 LSA Associates, Final Environmental Impact Report for the Hudner and Renz Acquisitions, January 2001

5 Hastings, M. and J. DiTomaso (1996). The use of fire for yellow starthistle (Centaurea solstitialis) management and restoration of native grasslands at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. CalEPPC News. 4: 4-6.

6 State of California-Department of Parks and Recreation. Hungry Valley SVRA Amendment to the General Plan. September 1981.

7 San Diego State University-Soil ecology and Restoration Group. Hungry Valley SVRA Vegetation and Wildlife Survey. September 1997.

8 State of California-OHMVRD. Habitat Monitoring System. October 1997.

9 Federal law and regulation compliance is required in cases where the Division is involved with a federal undertaking that includes a federal permit; federal funding; and/or, federal land.

10 For example, staff from the Archaeology, History & Museums Division assisted in cultural resource inventories and students from Sonoma State University have completed Master Thesis on Carnegie SVRA.

11 PRC Section 6254 states that archaeological site records are not for public distribution.

12 Perez, Alicia C., and Kelly Long, 2009. A Cultural Resource Inventory of the Clay Pit State Vehicular Recreation Area. Department of Parks and Recreation: Sacramento.

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16 State of California-Department of Parks and Recreation. Hollister Hills SVRA Baseline PM_{10} Air Monitoring Program, January 18, 2006

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18 State of California-OHMVRD. Habitat Monitoring System. October 1997.

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19 Marty, J., 2005, "Effects of Cattle Grazing on Diversity in Ephemeral Wetlands", Conservation Biology, vol 19, No 5: 1626-1632.

Oceano Dunes SVRA Montoring References

California Department of Parks and Recreation, 2009. Nesting of the California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover at the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, San Luis Obispo County, California, 2009 Season

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2007. Recovery Plan for the Pacific Coast Population of the Western Snowy Plover (Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus). In 2 volumes. Sacramento, California. Xiv + 751 pages.

Lake study that discusses fish tissue samples: www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/lakes_study.shtml

CGS Veg Islands Study: California Geological Survey, 2007. Review of Vegetation Islands, Oceano Dunes SVRA.

Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern (BLM)
Adaptive Management	A type of natural resource management in which decisions are made as part of an on-going science-based process
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ASCAR	Archaeological Site Condition Assessment Reports
ATV	All Terrain Vehicle
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
California Register	California Register of Historic Resources
CARB	California Air Resources Board
Carbon Emission	Energy-related carbon dioxide emissions, resulting from the combustion of petroleum, coal, and natural gas
Carbon Footprint	The total set of greenhouse gas emissions (including carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide) caused directly and indirectly by an individual, or product (UK Carbon Trust 2008)
CASSP	California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program
CAT	Collaborative Alternative Team
cc	Cubic Centimeter
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	Conservation and Enforcement Services Account
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
Chappie-Z'Berg Law	Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Law of 1971 California Vehicle Code Section 38000 et seq.

CHP	California Highway Patrol
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPPA	California Native Plan Protection Act
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
Commission	Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission
CSP	California State Parks
CSSC	California Species of Special Concern
CVC	California Vehicle Code
Division	Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
DMV	Department of Motor Vehicles
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
Endemic	Native to or confined to a certain region
ETC	Environmental Training Center
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMP	Grazing Management Plan
Grants Program	The OHMVR Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program
GPS	Global Positioning System
HMP	Habitat Monitoring Plan
HMS	Habitat Monitoring System
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MVUM	Motor Vehicle Use Map

National Register	National Register
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation
Non-Use Area	OHV/OSV use is prohibited (USFS)
Off-Highway Pal	Youth Education Program offered through the Division featuring ATV, dirt bike, and snowmobile classes teaching safe operation and environmental responsibility.
OHMVR Act	Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Act of 2003
OHMVR Division	Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle
OSV	Off-Snow Vehicle
PM	Particulate mater less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter
PRC	Public Resources Code
Program	Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation
Public Lands	Federal, state, county or city-owned or administered lands,
Restoration	Upon closure of the unit or any portion thereof, the restoration of land to the contours, the plant communities, and plant covers comparable to those on surrounding lands, or at least those that existed prior to off-highway motor vehicle use (PRC 5090.11)
Roads	Logging roads, service roads regardless of surface composition, or other roughly graded trails and roads upon which vehicular travel is permitted. (CVC 38001)
ROD	Record of Decision
RTC	Revenue and Taxation Code
RUV	Recreational Utility Vehicle
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SACRF	State Archeological Collections and Research Facility

SNO-PARK	A snow cleared parking lot with sanitation facilities and access to snow play areas, cross country ski and snowmobile trails.
Soil Conservation Standard	2008 Soil Conservation Standard
SVRA	State Vehicular Recreation Area
the Law	Chappie-Z'Berg Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Law
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
USDA	United State Forest Service.
Use Area	OHV/OSV use is legal and encouraged (USFS)
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VORRA	Valley Off-Road Racing Association
WHPP	Wildlife Habitat Protection Program